

Tettenhall College

OLD TETTENHALLIAN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the December 2025 edition







www.tettenhallcollege.alumni-online.com/



Mr Christopher McAllister
Headmaster

Dear Old Tettenhallian,

I write to you at an exciting time for Tettenhall College. This end-of-Autumn-Term newsletter is intended not only to update you on some of the key events and developments since the start of the academic year, but also to extend a warm invitation to become more closely involved in the life and future of the College through the Old Tettenhallians Club (OT Club).

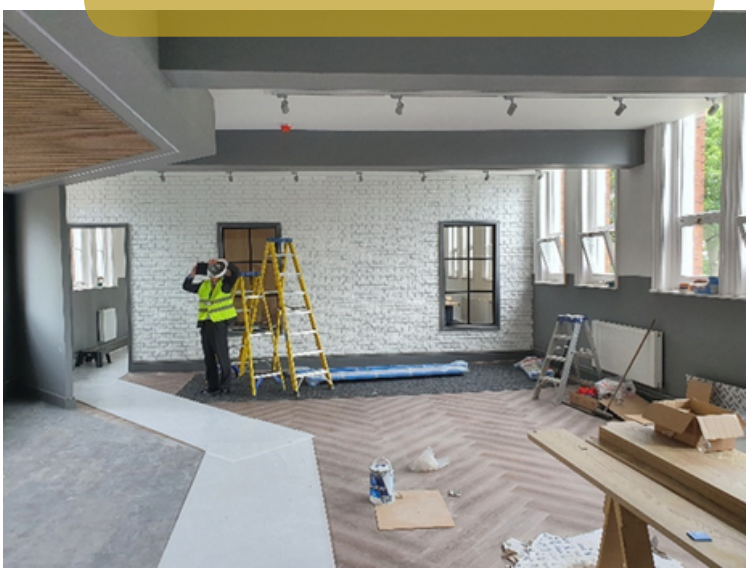
In recent years, I have had the great pleasure of meeting many Old Tettenhallians both here at the College and at reunions overseas. It has been a genuine privilege to work alongside the current and past Presidents of the OT Club and with those who so generously give their time and expertise in service of the Club and the College.

It is no secret that the independent school sector in the United Kingdom has faced significant challenges throughout the 2020s. The decade began with the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected young and old alike across the world. Despite this, the College recovered strongly, and thanks to the exceptional commitment of our staff—who ensured that pupils continued to receive a high-quality education even at the height of the pandemic—pupil numbers grew during this period and in the years immediately following. During this time, we undertook a major boarding house renovation to improve facilities for our resident pupils.

Boarding House Common Room: Phase 1



Boarding House Common Room: Phase 2





Boarding House Common Room: Completed



Boarding House Common Room Kitchen - Completed

In 2024, the College requested a 'material change' inspection from the Independent Schools Inspectorate to allow for an increase in our legal pupil capacity. I am delighted to report that this was granted. More recently, independent schools have had to contend with the imposition of business rates and the introduction of VAT at 20% on school fees. While Tettenhall College is by no means immune to these pressures, they have only reinforced the importance of providing the highest standards of education, ambition and pastoral care for the young people entrusted to us. Safeguarding the quality and distinctiveness of a Tettenhall College education remains an obligation we hold dear.

Perhaps because of these challenges, we have worked with renewed determination to develop and enhance the TC experience—not only for the pupils who learn and live here today, but also for the Old Tettenhallians whom we are always delighted to welcome back.

This is particularly true of the Towers building, which holds such a special place in the affections of so many OTs. Over the past two years, thanks to generous funding, a phased programme of renovation has taken place and will soon culminate in the complete re-roofing of the building. This work is vital not only for the preservation of an important part of our regional and national heritage, but also to ensure that Towers continues to serve a practical and vibrant role for current and future generations of Tettenhallians.

Towers Roof West: Before





Towers Roof West: Mid-renovation

Towers Façade: Before



Towers Façade: After



Alongside this, the College has expanded its day pupil numbers and renovated part of Old School House to increase boarding capacity, enabling more pupils to benefit from a boarding education at TC. In partnership with Sodexo, our long-standing catering providers, we were also fortunate in 2024 to complete a major and sensitive renovation of the Dining Room at the heart of the College. This project has created a clean, modern and welcoming space in which pupils, staff, Old Tettenhallians and guests can gather together, while also revealing beautiful original features unseen for many decades—features which I believe the building's architect, George Bidlake, would have greatly approved of. Additionally, our dedicated in-house Estates Team has redecorated the Sixth Form Common Room, which now provides an excellent work and social environment for our senior students.

Dining Room: Before



Dining Room: After









Looking ahead, the next major task for the College is to secure funding for the renovation and revitalisation of the interiors of the Towers building. As a Grade II* listed property, this work must be undertaken with great care and expertise. Our ambition over the coming years is to restore all interior rooms—preserving the history of the Thornycroft Estate and the College, while enhancing their practical use for pupils who live and learn within these walls.

Towers' Archive Tower: Before



Towers' Archive Tower: After



To support this important aim, I am delighted to share that, under the leadership of the immediate past President of the OT Club, Mr Nick Kirby, two new OT-led committees have been established with clear strategic objectives in support of the College.

The first is the OT Towers Fundraising and Development Committee, focused on the renovation of the Towers building. This long-term project will benefit enormously from Old Tettenhallian engagement, whether through industry expertise, strategic guidance or fundraising support. The first meeting of this committee will take place in person at 4.30pm on Tuesday 13 January 2026 in the Towers Meeting Room, immediately preceding the OT Committee meeting at 6.30pm the same evening. A Zoom option will be available. A second meeting will be held digitally via Zoom at 6.00pm on Tuesday 20 January 2026. These meetings are open to all OTs who wish to learn more about the project and explore ways of contributing.

The second committee, also chaired by Mr Kirby, is focused on careers guidance, professional mentoring and work experience opportunities for current pupils. This initiative has already enjoyed notable success, with Old Tettenhallians returning to deliver inspiring TETT Talks to our Sixth Formers and generously supporting our Aspire Programme through mock interviews and professional guidance. We are keen to build on this momentum and warmly invite further OT involvement.

Further details on both committees, including how to register your interest, can be found in the separate letter accompanying this newsletter email.

Alongside these strategic initiatives, there are many social opportunities in the months ahead to reconnect with old friends and rediscover the College as it is today. We are very much looking forward to welcoming OTs to our **all-years reunion on Saturday 7 February**, beginning at **4.00pm in the Towers Library**. The theme will be a photographic exhibition celebrating the history of the Towers Theatre. In addition to material from the College archives, we would be delighted to include photographs shared by OTs. If you have images you would be willing to contribute, please send them to our Alumni Officer, Mrs Jackie Medhurst (jm@tettcoll.co.uk). The afternoon will include refreshments, a bar and the opportunity for campus tours. To find out more or to book your place please click **here**.

We also look forward to welcoming **Peter Radford OT**, Olympian and Commonwealth medallist, who will deliver a visiting lecture to pupils on **Friday 27 March 2026 at 1.45pm in the College Chapel**. OTs are warmly invited to attend. In addition, our **London Drinks** will take place on **Thursday 23 April** at the PwC Building, followed by the **Old Tettenhallians Reunion and Sporting Events Day on Saturday 20 June** as part of our Summer Events Week.

One of the great privileges of my role is welcoming Old Tettenhallians back to the College. Earlier this term, we were delighted to host Peter Varlow, Gordon Hudson and Tim Wherley, together with our Chair of Governors, Mr Jeremy Woolridge. Following a tour of the campus, lunch in the newly renovated Dining Room and conversation in my study, it struck us all that it had been nearly 70 years since they were last entertained there.



From left to right:Mr Jeremy Woolridge (Chair of Governors); Mr Tim Wherley; Mr Gordon Hudson; Mr Peter Varlow OT; Mr Christopher McAllister (Headmaster).

November also saw our annual Remembrance Service in the Chapel—a poignant occasion to honour Old Tettenhallians who made the ultimate sacrifice—and the OT Club AGM, at which we were pleased to welcome **Mr Sam Payne** as President of the OT Club. He succeeds Mr Nick Kirby, to whom I am profoundly grateful for his commitment, generosity and vision.



From left to right:Mr Christopher McAllister (Headmaster); Mr Nick Kirby (President of the OT Club 2024-2025); Mr Sam Payne President of the OT Club 2025-2026; Mr Jeremy Ireland-Jones (Chair of the OT Club).

We were also deeply saddened by the passing of Mr Antony Farnath, former Governor and father of Chris, a past President of the OT Club. Mr Farnath was a true gentleman and an inspiration to many, and he will be greatly missed.

As we approach 2026—a time often associated with reflection and renewal—I would like to reassure you that, as an Old Tettenhallian, Tettenhall College will always be your school. You are always welcome here. Should you wish to return, whether for an event or a personal visit, please do not hesitate to contact us; I would be delighted to meet you and arrange a tour whenever possible.

If you would like to find out more about College development projects and support, please click **here** for further information. To view the latest OT news, please clcik **here** to visit the website,

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and every good wish for 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher McAllister
Headmaster
Tettenhall College