

THIRSK FALCONS

(Thirsk School's Alumni Association)

Thirsk School and Sixth Form College continue to be an important part of our community. To reflect the role the school plays an Alumni Association (Thirsk Falcons) was initiated in 2019 with an open day – then the pandemic hit, and things have gone into limbo. We would now like to get things back underway by getting together a group of keen Alumni to run and develop our association and keep its history alive and available to all.

OUR LOCAL HERO—Peter Almond

He joined the RAF as a mechanic and after various courses took a test to qualify him for what he thought was training on diesel engines but was in fact a top-secret mission on installing Radar. After training, in the spring of 1941 he was attached to the 518 section to go to Cyprus, but when the situation in Cyprus eased, he was redirected to Singapore, travelling via the West African coast, stopping in Sierra Leone, South Africa then on across the Indian Ocean to Ceylon, through the Bay of Bengal and straits of Malaya before landing in Singapore.

Peter got out of Singapore just before it fell with the rest of his unit, on a ferry bound for Java. They were shelled by a Japanese plane and limped along the coast to Jakarta, and it was there that he was finally captured. Then and for the next 3 and a half years his hell unfolded. There are many stories and many books have been written by others. Peter's full tale cannot be told here but I can give you a few insights:

Link—[20231023-Peter Almond-Eulogy v2.doc](https://www.live.com/20231023-Peter%20Almond-Eulogy%20v2.doc)
(live.com)

Alumni Vision (What do we want to be?)

Many schools have an association or society for their form pupils and staff that provides a focal point to keep them and their families connected to the local community, friends and colleagues. It has been the ambition of our school to develop its Association, so it too becomes a thriving and welcoming hub for our growing numbers of Alumni. Since the current school opened in 1957 it has had a large proportion of our local community through its doors, who can consider themselves as old scholars.

The school has served the Thirsk community for over six and half decades, providing a first-class education and nurturing a number of future stars along the way. It's an institution our community can be proud of and be proud to be part of.

To help support and grow our proud tradition we are now looking to develop and explore our Alumni Association to something more appropriate and reflective of the community's needs.

As they say, "from small acorns, mighty oaks grow". While it may take some time before we can consider our association as a 'mighty oak', we want to see a health sapling shooting up over the next few years. **Primarily, we are looking to establish an elected committee who can develop this vision and grow it into a reality.**

The initial aims of the committee would be to encourage more of our Alumni to join the association by providing them with a calendar of organised events to promote social contact between our members, their families and the wider Thirsk community. Part of this activity could also help to raise funds for our school, to benefit of its current students. We are keen to get the views of our Alumni on this. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let us know at the email address below.

The last time we all got together



This picture was taken on the 62nd anniversary of the school in the summer of 2019. No one knew at the time that the impending Covid pandemic would prevent any further such get togethers for some time.

2013

Man of Mancha was the school production that year, does anyone have any photos of the performance?

Thirsk School & Sixth Form College

Man of la Mancha



Tuesday 12th February 2013 7.30pm
Wednesday 13th February 2013 7.30pm
Thursday 14th February 2013 7.30pm

2003



Four happy players making up the Thirsk School Woodwind Quartet. Helps us identify who these students are, do you have any photos of them performing?

1993

Getting ready to depart for France –
Thirsk school students at Thirsk station in winter 93. Do you have any other photos from this exchange trip to share?

