



Season's Greetings from the Alumni Association



Dear Friend

We are writing to wish you a very Merry Christmas on behalf of everyone here at Belfast Royal Academy.

As we draw towards the end of another very busy year in the Academy calendar and are enjoying the festive season of joy, hope and love, we now take time to look back with gratitude for the past year and look forward with hope and ambitions for the year ahead. We have had an

exciting and action-packed term for both pupils and staff, with a plethora of sporting events and successes, a magnificent performance of the acclaimed musical production, “School of Rock”, a host of school trips and visits, rehearsals for our annual carol service at St Anne’s Cathedral and pupils preparing for end of term examinations and university admissions.

The past year, however, has not been easy for many within our community as the ongoing economic crisis impacts all of us in our day to day lives. Many aspects of school life have also been affected by this, from the rising energy costs required to heat and run the School, to the impact on pupils who are coming to school without breakfast. We are especially grateful to the members of our **1785 Foundation** who have contributed to this new fund over the past year. Donations from the Foundation have been used to assist with the regular purchase of cereal bars and fruit, now available daily outside the General Office for those pupils who are unable to bring a snack with them to school. Another area of school life that funds from the Foundation have contributed to is in the purchase of school uniform, sporting kit and school trips. There are occasions where a pupil is selected to represent the School at a sporting event or for a school sporting team and is not able to personally fund the cost of the specific sports kit or trip costs, so the Foundation has very kindly stepped in to fund the purchase of the required sporting items and has assisted with financing any associated costs. Further details about the **1785 Foundation** can be found at

<https://www.belfastroyalacademy.com/support-us/the-1785-foundation>

We are always delighted to hear from our alumni across the globe and many alumni have been in contact with us over the past year, whether attending reunions, volunteering at or attending school events and

many now returning as parents of pupils at the School. We are looking forward to welcoming back many more alumni next year at our series of class reunions in May and June and do hope many of you will be able to join us at these very enjoyable events or indeed at one of the Former Pupils' dinners in Belfast, London or Edinburgh. Our **alumni reunion lunches** next year are to celebrate the 50th, 40th, 30th and 20th anniversaries of leaving school and we are looking to invite former pupils from the classes of **1973, 1983, 1993 and 2003** back to School for the opportunity to reunite and catch up with old friends and teachers. To find out more and confirm your attendance please email alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net

We are incredibly proud of all our former pupils and the impact they have had and continue to have both in Northern Ireland and around the world and we thank you all for your part in upholding the School ethos, reflecting our values of hard work, high standards, respect for knowledge, celebrating diversity and also in sharing our successes. We enjoy celebrating the achievements of our alumni, as can be seen in our recent **#RoleModel** campaign on social media, and we are always thrilled to welcome former pupils back to school for a visit at any time. If you are interested in participating in the #RoleModel initiative, please contact us by email at alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net

On behalf of the entire Belfast Royal Academy community, we wish you a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year and please do keep in touch!

The Alumni Association