

75th ANNIVERSARY OF OPENING OF OTTERSHAW SCHOOL – TOAST

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

Well, here we are. 75 years exactly. 12 noon. 20th September 2023.

May I welcome you all on the auspicious occasion of celebrating the 75th anniversary when our School first opened its doors to welcome 71 boys into the Surrey County Council's first ever boarding school. One of those boys is here with us today to join in our celebrations.

May I welcome you David Tilleard OTT66 and thank you for coming.

Ottershaw School has a brief history but a distinguished one. Its foundation under the Education Act 1944 was a landmark in English education; its very existence pioneered a new world in state-provided education. We all share in the memories we had, good and bad. We may even hear a few tales later?

Allan Dodds notably quoted this about the School - "Nor would I care how short it were, if good. It has been good, very good." I think many of us here today would agree,

Today Ottershaw Park is a private estate comprising 80 properties and so whilst its purpose has changed forever, it will always remain in the memories of the boys who were educated there.

Ottershaw alumni formed what is today known as OSOBS the Ottershaw School Old Boys' Society. It is a vibrant and progressive collection of former pupils who regularly share, perhaps not as often as some would like, but then you can't have too much of a good thing or subsidies either, their personal experiences of the School and how their education formed the bedrock of the lives they live today. Our Society is what has now become the legacy of our School and so, may I invite you on behalf of OSOBS to raise your glasses and join me in the toast to Ottershaw School.

Ladies and gentlemen, kindly raise your glasses and toast with me – Ottershaw School!

Thank you.

André Scruton

President