



# THE COLLEGE BELL

*The Official Newsletter of the Harrison College/  
Queen's College Alumni Associations Network*

**April 2026**

## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3  
*Congratulations  
to the Prize Winners!*

Page 5  
*Passages*

Page 9  
*In Memoriam*

Page 11  
*Colourama Returns*

Page 12  
*Blasts from the Past!*

Page 13  
*How To Join  
The Associations*

Page 14  
*Save The Date - June 20*

Page 15  
*60 Years Later...*

Page 16  
*Celebrate Our Stars!  
We Want To Hear From You*

Page 17  
*CARICOM's People  
Demand Better*

Page 19  
*Barbados 2026  
General Elections -  
HC & QC Alumni*



*Left to right: Roger Foster, Tamara Marshall, Dean Straker, Alan Sheppard*

## Mosaic XI: Renaissance Concert Honours Spice And Company

*From Dean Emil Straker, one of the Founding Members of Spice and Company:*

I want to thank Harrison College and the Mosaic XI team for their tribute to Spice and Company on Sunday March 15th.

We thoroughly enjoyed the evening as we experienced our music being performed by the Mosaic Big Band directed by David Weatherhead and John Roett. John directed and arranged the tribute to us and those who sang the Spice songs were Adrian Clarke, Biggie Irie, IWeb, Alix Cage, Blood, James Leacock, Jadon Knight, O'Shea Stoute and the General Edwin Yearwood. They were all fantastic! Special mention to the horn section who were awesome!

We entered Harrison College in 1972, and it was a very special feeling to be honored 54 years later in the historic school hall where we spent so many days gathered at morning assembly to say prayers and receive notifications.

I wish to thank the Principal Ms. Kellman-Holder, the Chairman of Mosaic concert series Ms. Ayo Burrowes and her Team, the HC Board of Management, all the performers and surprise

Follow us on:  **ISSUU**

*Continued on Page 2*



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# Mosaic XI: Renaissance Concert Honours Spice And Company



*Photo above: founding members of iconic Barbadian band Spice & Company and Harrison College alumni Alan Sheppard, Roger Foster and Dean Straker receiving their awards at the Mosaic XI: Renaissance Concert in the School Hall on March 15, 2026.*



*At left, Dean Straker's Special Awards Plaque.*

**#InDeoFides**

## *Continued from Page 1*

guest artistes for making it a truly memorable night for us.

John Roett thank you for your time, talent and efforts in arranging this tribute despite having to undergo a surgical procedure during the rehearsal schedule. Thanks to David Weatherhead for conceptualizing Mosaic to keep funding the music department.

I cannot leave out the regional and international messages delivered by icons in the music business who took time out to record such kind words about us. It was humbling indeed and we are surely blessed to have worked with you all.

Finally, I can safely report to all future students aspiring to attend this 300-year-old institution that the school is very much alive, intact, and remains the crème de la crème of secondary schools in the Caribbean. Form is temporary, but class is class!

# Congratulations to the Prize Winners!

by Mary Symmonds, President HCQCAA (USA)

*"Truth is the light, so you never give up the fight."* Bob Marley

The HCQCAN congratulates all the prize winners from last year's successful fund-raising concert!



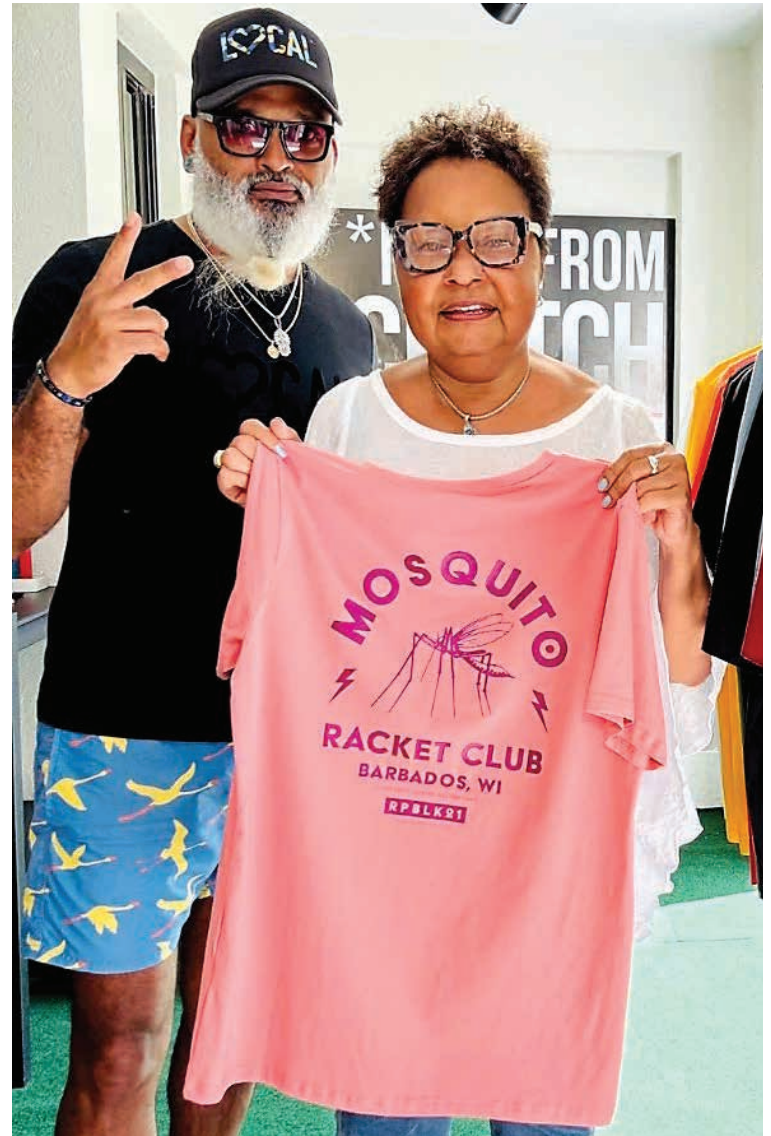
**Ingrid Thomas, winner of the roundtrip ticket donated by BTMI**

With the first quarter recently ended, it's probably not necessary to say it, but, happy, healthy and successful 2026 to everyone!

As we continue our year, I thank you all for your participation and contributions to our year-end Virtual Uplifting Year-End fundraising concert. We had over 1000 views on YouTube and raised, thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, around BDS \$15,000 in donations.

All donors were eligible for the prize draw, and we congratulate our prize winners. Pictured are some of those who were among the many donors.

We are in discussion with both schools on moving forward with their projects and we will provide further updates while continu-



**Norma Hincson winner of the T-shirt donated by Rhaj Paul of Ministry of Style.**

ing our fight to fundraise and reach the pinnacle of BDS \$2 million needed for the campaign projects.

### **Harrison College**

Constructing on top of the Chemistry lab and equipping

- a Robotics lab
- a Food Science lab

### **Queen's College**

- upgrading the Science labs
- upgrading the Hall in support of the performing arts
- completing and equipping the pavilion and the perimeter fencing

**Continued on Page 4**

# Congratulations to the Prize Winners!

*Continued from Page 3*



*Sherry Cumberbatch, winner of the 43-inch TV donated by OSI Computers*



*Prof. Anne St. John, winner of the Begone Pest voucher*

## #STEM #STEAM #STEAMS

This year speech day reports on student performance signify the standards of excellence prevail and serve as encouragement that we must move forward and succeed with implementing the improvement campaign projects. Contact us for more information on how you can make a donation.

Visit our website: [www.hcqcacolumnetwork.org](http://www.hcqcacolumnetwork.org)

On this year's calendar are two major networking and fundraising opportunities:

- the HCQCAN STARS AWARDS and fundraiser on October 25, 2026
- our Annual Virtual Uplifting Year-end Concert.

## Many hands make light work

We are seeking volunteers with hidden musical talent.

We are also seeking volunteers for our Organizing Committee.

We invite volunteers to join hands with us. Contact us as soon as possible at [2020hcqcgatherin@gmail.com](mailto:2020hcqcgatherin@gmail.com) about donating a video for this year's concert, donate a prize for the prize draw, being a sponsor for one of the events and/or your planning and organizing skills. Our Concert will take place on Thursday, December 19, 2026.

We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Nathan Richards, one of last year's performers, as he is about to go to the United Kingdom to further his voice training. We wish him further success and look forward to continued contributions of his talent.



# PASSAGES

Celebrating the social, professional and personal milestones of our alumni.

If you have events that you'd like us to feature, please reach out to us at [communications.hcqc@gmail.com](mailto:communications.hcqc@gmail.com)



## Emily Odwin

QC Alumna Emily Odwin who is the first Barbadian to qualify for a major championship at the 2025 U.S. Women's Open is making history again by receiving an invitation to the 2026 Augusta National Women's Amateur played at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia.

Emily, who was named the 2025 Barbados Olympic Association Senior Athlete of the Year, now also becomes the first Caribbean golfer to compete in this event. This will be her final outing as an amateur as it is anticipated that she will turn pro in June by joining the Epson Tour in the U.S.



## Doreen Weatherhead, 1931-2026

Doreen was a Queen's College alumna who became a pioneering figure in UK local government, serving the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea for 47 years.

She began her school days at St. Ursula's School (The Ursuline Convent) followed by Queen's College and finally at St George's Hospital London where she qualified as a State Registered Radiographer.

In 1951 Doreen joined the Young Conservatives which she thought was an effective way to meet young people, especially West Indians, and took on a number of active roles such as Branch Secretary, Chairman to Divisional Treasurer and Vice-Chairman.

Her first foray into local politics was in 1962 when she stood, unsuccessfully, for councillor in St. Charles Ward. However, two years later she was successfully elected to the Kensington & Chelsea Borough Council for the Pembridge Ward.

*Continued on Page 6*

# PASSAGES

*Continued from Page 5*



*Top photo: Queen's College students in 1947, at the River Road Campus*

*Above and left, Doreen Weatherhead as a Girl Guide at Queen's College.*

*Continued on Page 7*

# PASSAGES

## Continued from Page 6

Between 1971–1974 Doreen was co-opted to the Health Committee and was then re-elected and served the Pembridge Ward until May 2014 when she retired.

From 1979-1980 she served as Deputy-Mayor of the Royal Borough under Mayor Christopher Walford. In 1994 Christopher Walford became the Lord Mayor of London and at the same time Doreen became the first non-English Mayor of Kensington & Chelsea. In that role she chaired multiple council committees which impacted public services, libraries, roads, and community regulation.

Beyond her council responsibilities, Doreen contributed significantly to external organisations. As a West Indian she was proud to serve as a trustee of the Pepper Pot Day Centre, which is a charity based in Ladbroke Grove, West London, that supports elderly people from the African, Caribbean, and Black & Minority Ethnic communities.

In addition to all the above, Doreen also became the go-to Bajan in London for Bajans coming to school, to university, to train or for medical reasons. Her spare room in Kensington was regularly in use and the wardrobe in the hall held various coats as well as many abandoned hangars with Bajan names on them.

Doreen's professional work covered areas that shaped everyday life in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. Her dedication reflected a deep commitment to local democracy and through decades of change she remained a constant presence in the community.

Her service to the Royal Borough lasted 47 years, from 1964 until 2014, making her one of the longest-serving councillors. In recognition of this in July 2015, Doreen was made an Honorary Alderman by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

In an interview in October 1994 Doreen told Sunday Life journalist Sonji Philips: "I came to England to study and I was determined to finish. When I had finished, I had made so many friends, and I loved the hospital that I stayed there for five years. Then I came home for a vacation, and I missed England so much I had to go back".

Her career embodies public service, perseverance, and community dedication. She gave her time, her energy, and her heart to the people she served, her UK family.

*Credit content & photos: Peter Burton of [www.bajanthings.com](http://www.bajanthings.com)*



*QC alumna Doreen Weatherhead as a radiographer in the United Kingdom in the 1950's.*



*Continued on Page 8*

# PASSAGES

*Continued from Page 7*

## QC Founders Day

Queen's College celebrated its 143rd Founders Day this past January. The celebration at the school was standing room only in the hall with a good turnout of notable alumni!



*QC alumnae gathered at the School for Founders Day in January. From left to right, Mary Symmonds (class of 1969), Chair of the HCQC Alumni Network; Jacqueline Clarke (class of 1979); Michelle Daniel (class of 1986), Deputy Chair Board of Management; Gerda Arthur (class of 1968); Lynda Holder (class of 1969), Board of Management Chair; Prof. Ann St. John (class of 1969), Give Back QC Trustee.*



## Larry A.C. Smith

King's Counsel Larry A. C. Smith, an alumnus of Harrison College, was selected in February to serve as President of The Barbados Bar Association (BBA) for the 2026-2027 term.

The BBA says that the new Council will be responsible for the "governance and administration of the body with a mandate to support and protect the legal profession in Barbados".



# In Memoriam

*Sadie was a pillar of strength and grace, a steady light in our lives whose presence brought comfort and calm. Her laughter was a melody that lifted spirits, her love unwavering and true. Sadie leaves behind a legacy that endures.*

## Sadie PATRICIA OCTAVIA DIXON

of 2 Culpepper Development, St. Philip; Attorney-at-Law and Bank Secretary of the Central Bank of Barbados; Anglican Diocesan Chancellor; Chairperson of the Sandiford-Lucas Trust, Holy Trinity Anglican Church and Tutor in Legal Principles, at the Insurance Institute of Barbados entered peacefully into eternal rest on Monday, October 6, 2025 at the age of 54.

**Loving daughter of** The Very Reverend Dean Emeritus William George St. Clair Dixon, CBE and the late Wilma Patricia Dixon née Blackman

**Beloved granddaughter of** the late Piercy and Evelyn Blackman and Margaret Ada Dixon

**Devoted sister of** Cherri-Ann Dixon-Holford (British High Commission) and Adrian Dixon (National Petroleum Corporation of Barbados)

**Aunt extraordinaire of** Jahzara Holford (UWI, Mona Campus), Solange Holford (Queen's College) and Chad Montplaisir (Carnival Cruise Line Entertainment)

**Adoring niece of** Doreen Forde (UK), The Reverend Pearson Blackman (Thelma Blackman), Basil Blackman (Muriel Blackman), Trevor Blackman (Angela Blackman), the late Lennox Blackman (Euslyn Blackman) (Canada), the late Collis Blackman (Enid Blackman), the late Ryan Blackman (Maria Blackman) and Miriam Archer (UK)

**Affectionate cousin of** Heather, Anne, Carl and Michelle Forde, Caroline Goode and the late David Forde, the extended Forde and Goode families (UK); Corey, Steve, Marc, Sonya and the late Andrea Blackman (Canada); Lester, Kevin, Nicholas Blackman, Terri-Ann Hopkin and Trudy Blackman-Deffay (France); Sophie Egbuniwe (UK); Rosaline Prescod-Pseudhomme, Margaret and Peter Prescod (USA), Alicia Barker-Grant, June Breedy and the extended Arthur families and Joyce Piggott

**Loyal sister-in law of** Ryan Holford and Gregory Jordan

**Life-long friend of** Henderson Wallace

**Godmother of** Dr Janene Carter, Ashley Toppin, Shane Johnson, Mihaley Blackman and others too numerous to mention, **Cherished friend of** Caye Gajadhar, Andy Davis, Barbara Marshall, Cynthia and Everette Johnson, Kelly Burke, Nicholas Perkins, Sonia Layne-Garthsides, Claudia Clarke, Ian Weekes, Nigel Whitehall, Michael Lashley, Novaline Brewster, Arlene Estwick, Runako Brathwaite, The Rev. Bernard and Jo-Ann Been, Tamara Hurley, Ke-anne Evans, David Mason, Abigail Mason-Bushell, Cornelius Bartlett, Ruan and Charlene Humphrey, Fidelle Emery, Krystal Wallace, Natalie Cox, Ralph and Lorraine Jemmott, Gary and Ingrid Durant, Shanta Trotman; the Central Bank of Barbados Family, the Holy Trinity Church and the Anglican Diocese of Barbados, The Rev. Mary Graham, the Erdiston Primary School Class of 1982, Harrison College Fraternity, UWI Cave Hill Campus Class of 1992, Hugh Wooding Law School Class of 1994, Barbados Bar Association & the Legal Fraternity and her beloved Culpepper Development and St. Philip community,

**Friend of** many others locally, regionally, and internationally.

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Bridgetown St. Michael on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., followed by the interment in the Cathedral Churchyard. **Preservice tributes will commence at 9:00 a.m.** Due to limited parking, a shuttle service from Harrison College to the Cathedral Church will be available every 15 minutes

between 8:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. and from the Cathedral Church to Harrison College from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Floral tributes may be delivered to **CLYDE B. JONES FUNERAL HOME**, Top Rock, Christ Church no later than 7:30 a.m.

on Saturday, November 1. A collection will be taken in support of St. Michael's Cathedral Restoration Fund and the


Sandiford Lucas Trust, Holy Trinity Church. Sadie will repose at the Courtney Blackman Grand Salle, Tom Adams Financial Centre, Spry Street, Bridgetown on Friday, October 31 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



*Continued on Page 8*





# In Memoriam



**NORMA  
MONICA  
Forde**

Late of Valley View, St. George,  
former Radiographer, Broadcaster  
and Senior Lecturer-in-Law

The funeral of Norma Monica Forde leaves **The Belmont Funeral Home**, Belmont Road, St. Michael on Friday, 13 February 2026 at 8:30 a.m. for Bethel Methodist Church, Bay Street, St. Michael where relatives and friends are asked to meet at 10:00 a.m. for the service. The funeral will then proceed to the Westbury Cemetery for the interment. The Organist and Choir are kindly asked to attend. Floral arrangements may be sent to **The Belmont Funeral Home** no later than 8:00 a.m. on Friday. The service and burial may be viewed via live video stream at [www.belmontfuneralhome.live/NormaForde](http://www.belmontfuneralhome.live/NormaForde)

SUNRISE: NOVEMBER 15, 1963  
SUNSET: DECEMBER 02, 2025

**Steven**  
**Gay William Conliffe,**  
aged 62, of Spring Farm, Mangrove, St. Philip,  
entered into a peaceful rest. Attorney-at-Law, Member  
of the St. Philip South Branch of the Barbados Labour  
Party, Past Master of Preceptors Memorial Lodge No.  
9714 EC and member of Lodge St. John No. 1062 SC.

Son of the late Samuel and Doris Conliffe.  
Brother of Anthea Ishmael, the late Wilton and Charles Conliffe.  
Uncle of Kemlyn and Warren Conliffe and Laura Ishmael.  
Great-uncle of Aiden Ishmael and Arianna Ishmael-King.  
Cousin of many.

Friend of His Honour Senator the Most Hon. Reginald Farley, Hon. Indra Weir M.P.,  
Senator Gregory Nicholls, Dr. Guy Kirtan, Samuel Wallenson, Sandra Reifer-Wallenson,  
Michelle Yearwood, Michael Carrington, Sonia Gaskin, Mark Seale, Andy Harding,  
Ian Browne, Adrian Murray, Cyralene Bereskin-Murray, Jason King, Jessica Odle-Baril,  
Lynda Odle, Stanfield Shepherd, Ernard Jones, Wendell Walker, The BLP St. Philip South  
Constituency Office, Brethren of Preceptor Memorial Lodge No. 9714 EC and Lodge  
St. John 1062 SC, and others too numerous to mention.

The Funeral of Steven Gay William Conliffe leaves the C. H. Best Funeral Service,  
St. Martin, St. Philip on Thursday, December 18th, 2025, for the St. Martin Anglican  
Church, St. Martin, St. Philip, where relatives and friends are asked to meet for a Service  
of Thanksgiving and Praise at 3:00 p.m., followed by the Interment in the Church  
Cemetery. The Organist and Members of the Choir are requested to attend.  
There will be a viewing in the Chapel of the C. H. Best Funeral Service, on  
Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m., Floral tributes may be  
delivered to the C. H. Best Funeral Service no later than 12:00 p.m., on Thursday.  
LIVE STREAMING ON <https://restinpeace.live/StevenConliffe>  
Condolences may be sent to [chbestfuneral@gmail.com](mailto:chbestfuneral@gmail.com)



**Azim  
Levonne Griffith**

Age 37 years of Nottingham, England  
and Welchman Hall, St. Thomas

Cherished son of Arleigh and Janice Griffith;  
Devoted father of Azaire and Azaiah Griffith;  
Beloved brother of Davia Brome, Kristal Holmes,  
Arlon Griffith and Adrian Greaves;  
Uncle of Davielle Brome, Kyra and Kaydon Holmes,  
Nimra and Abriylah Griffith;  
Nephew of Jennifer Babb, Paul and Lyndon Fenty,  
Sonanto Dottin, Edwina Griffith,  
Francia Bowen, Miriam Skeete; Patricia Lewis (USA),  
Marilyn Griffith, Juan Beckford,  
Martin, Carl and Lynda Rock, Gwendolyn Matthews (UK),  
Liz and Andre Sobers (Canada);  
Cousin of Kim and Daveney Ellis, Kerrie Worrell, Felicia, Zahur,  
Armanda and Jaedon Fenty, Barry and Akeem Franklyn,  
Shunda Callender, Darren, Felicia and Deah Bowen, Levi King,  
Ceren Griffith, Christiana Lavine, Deyon Rock, Dawn and Devon Lewis,  
Allison Grimes, Simone Griffith (USA); Leitia and Antonia Matthews,  
Darren Beckford, Monique Belle, Remico, Teneka, Drey,  
Shanique and MarcusRock (UK);  
Grandson of the late Stella Griffith, Arleigh Sobers, Cecil and Dorothy Fenty;  
Relative of the Lowe, Fenty, Griffith, Roach, Rock, Babb, and Sobers families;  
Friend of Latoya McDowald Hurley, Alana Griffith, Alana Russell, Charmaine Carter, Alicia Carter,  
Chernett Sadler, Lydia Hillaire, Michael Griffith Q.C., Omar and Jamar Watson, and many others.

The funeral leaves **Downes and Wilson Funeral Home**, Eagle Hall, St. Michael on  
**Saturday, February 28, 2026** for The Power in the Blood Assembly, Kew Road, St. Michael  
where relatives and friends are asked to meet at **10 a.m.** for the service followed by the interment  
at Coral Ridge Memorial Gardens. Tributes will commence at **9:30 a.m.** until the start of the service.  
Wreaths may be sent to **Downes and Wilson Funeral Home** no later than  
**8 a.m.** on **Saturday, February 28, 2026.**

Relatives and friends may pay their respects at **Downes and Wilson Funeral Home**  
on **Friday, February 27, 2026** from **4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Live Streaming at <https://eternally-cherished.online/AzimGriffith>  
and **Downes and Wilson Funeral Home** YouTube channel

Condolences may be sent to [www.downesandwilson.com](http://www.downesandwilson.com)





# Colourmania Returns With 5K Run, Walk



**Present and past students of Harrison College gathered on Wednesday < March 11, 2026, to announce this year's Colourmania event on April 12. Among them were president of the Old Harrisonian Society, Lt. Col. Junior Browne (sitting centre); race director George Griffith (sitting, second left); Harrison College principal Kaylene Kellman-Holder (sitting, second right); national athlete Carlie Robinson (standing, second left) and broadcaster Patrick "Salt" Bellamy (standing, second right) as well as David Csumrik (standing, centre), trustee of the Amarone Charitable Trust and the house captains. (Photo by Jameel Springer.)**

**By Jonteau Coppin**

[jonteaucoppin@nationnews.com](mailto:jonteaucoppin@nationnews.com)

After three years away, Colourmania is back on April 12 with a creative twist. That was the announcement from the president of the Old Harrisonian Society, Lieutenant Colonel Junior Browne, who spoke on Wednesday at Harrison College during the event media launch. Present at the launch were former students, national distance runner Carlie Robinson and Patrick "Salt" Bellamy as well as David Csumrik, trustee of the Amarone Charitable Trust, which is the event's sponsor. This year, the 5K run and walk event will conclude with a 400-metre run around the school's Obadele Thompson Sports Complex, which will be adorned with bouncy castles and obstacles. Also, as part of the event, students from Armstrong (Blue), Dalton (Yellow), Deighton (Red), and Collymore (Green) will compete against each other in an inter-house challenge, with a minimum of 20 competitors needed from each house to ensure victory. There will also be a greater onus on the colour aspect as paint and powder will be provided, as well as music and entertainment. The event was last held in 2023 and is being held to raise

funds for computer lab upgrades as well as other refurbishment projects around the school, including the War Memorial Clock Tower, which was erected in 1923, and commemorates the Harrison College students who gave their lives in World Wars I and II. Lt. Col. Browne said they were seeking to raise awareness and funds for the projects they were currently working on. "Those being the upgrade of our computer labs here at the school. Another big one is the refurbishment of the War Memorial. It is over 100 years old, and it pays homage to those Harrisonians who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. At the moment, it is in a state of disrepair, and the clock needs some work.

"We've gotten some quotations for that work, and we hope through events such as this that we'll raise awareness and get our alumni involved in assisting with the refurbishment exercise."

## Regular event

"One of the things we really want is to make sure that the school and the students feel like a real part of the event. In the past, the event took place at the school, but perhaps we were not engaging the student body

as effectively as we could have. This year, we've created a race specifically for the students called the Colour Race," he said.

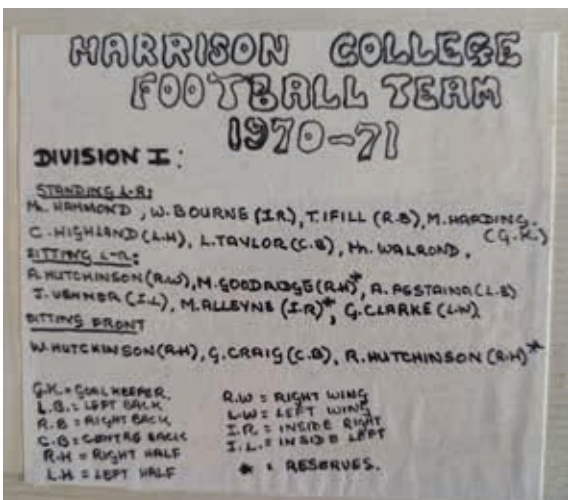
Lt. Col. Browne stressed that for a team to have a chance of winning, at least 20 people from each house were required to take part. "The race will be scored in a cross-country format, with the first 20 finishers from each house counting toward the total. That's how we will determine the winner of the Colourmania Colours event, which is designed primarily for students."

Harrison College principal Kaylene Kellman-Holder believes the event can help connect the alumni with the current students while also deepening relationships with the school's local community. "I am so honoured because it is a golden opportunity to foster that harmonious relationship between our past and current students. It is also a golden opportunity to foster a sense of pride within the various houses. That is why I'm heartened and why I gave permission for the students to be here, even though we are having classes right now," she added.



**The non-functional clock on the Harrison College War Memorial, dedicated to those who were killed in World Wars I and II.**

# Blasts from the Past!



## Meet the 1970-71 Harrison College Football Team!

According to the caption attached to the original photograph, which is over 50 years old, here are the players:

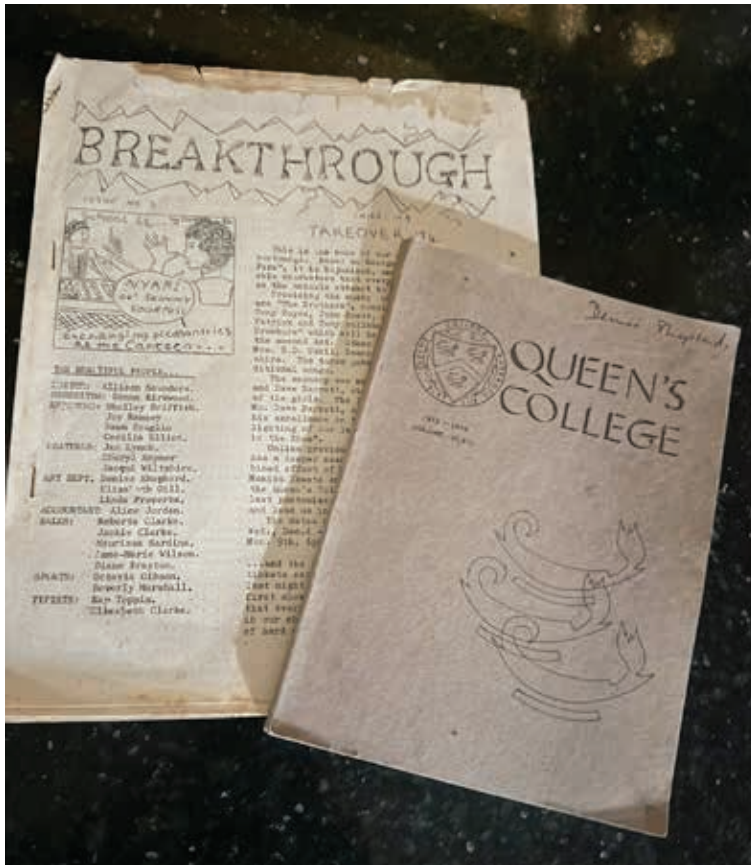
**Standing (back row l-r): Mr. Hammond, W. Bourne, T. Ifill, M. Harding, C. Highland, L. Taylor, Mr. Walrond.**

**Sitting (middle row, l-r): A. Hutchinson, M. Goodridge, A. Pestaina,**

**J. Venner, M. Alleyne, G. Clarke**

**Sitting (front row, l-r): W. Hutchinson, G. Craig, R. Hutchinson**

# Blasts from the Past!



## Who remembers "Breakthrough"?

**Breakthrough** was the original Queen's College student newspaper from the 1970's, created via the infamous Gestetner duplicating machine, designed and created before the era of desktop publishing, digital technology, and the internet.

As one of the original contributors, alumna Kathie Daniel (née Branker, class of 1979) fondly recalls watching issues being created using typewriters, and carefully drawing illustrations on the Gestetner stencils with the Cyclostyle stylus, ingeniously fixing errors with correcting fluid and hand-cranking the actual copying machine, before manually collating and stapling the finished products.

The Queen's College book pictured to right of the old newspaper was an offset printed booklet designed by the administrators of the school, and often included articles from senior students, as well as photographs and illustrations from teachers and staff.

Things have changed a lot in the intervening years!

## How to Join the Associations

**Your Alumni Associations look forward to welcoming new members, and to your participation in upcoming reunion events both online and in person!**



**HCQC AA (USA)**

Mary Symmonds

Email: [hcqcalums@gmail.com](mailto:hcqcalums@gmail.com)

**HCQC AA (Toronto)**

Cheryl Phillips

Email: [hcqcaatoronto@gmail.com](mailto:hcqcaatoronto@gmail.com)

**QCA (Barbados)**

Erica Hinkson

Email:

[qcapresidentbarbados@gmail.com](mailto:qcapresidentbarbados@gmail.com)

**OHS (Barbados)**

Junior Browne

Email: [kolljpresident@gmail.com](mailto:kolljpresident@gmail.com)

*Calling the Canadian Alumni! Come to the Races at Woodbine, Toronto, Ontario!*

# SAVE THE DATE

## JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>

## @ 12:30 PM

for an afternoon of

# DINING & RACING

## AT THE WOODBINE RACES



## DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Event is in aid of our Scholarship fund.

# 60 Years Later: True Friendships Never Fade



*Left to right: Cheryl Phillips (Clarke); Annette Beckett; Pamela Lowe Hoyte; Heather Thompson (Smith); Dianne Skeete; Christine Storey; Pat Downes Grant.*

## By Cheryl Phillips

Some people say school days are the best days of your life, and I think, for the most part, that is true. I attended Queen's College in the 60s and 70s, starting at the tender age of 11.

The carefree days of running into the woods at the Queen's College Constitution Road site, climbing tamarind trees we weren't supposed to; hanging over the wall ogling the boys (especially those from Harrison College); and tormenting teachers (or were they tormenting us?) were among our best days.

What cannot be compared, however, are the bonds made with classmates—those ties that bind us forever. We spent at least six glorious years together; we grew up together, laughed and cried together; and shared our first everything together.

Fast forward sixty years. I don't live in Barbados, but whenever I come for a visit, I make a special effort to make sure and reconnect with friends from my QC days. Some of us hadn't seen each other since leaving Queen's College—since that last day of school when we signed each other's white shirts and wrote loving messages in our autograph books. Sixty years! Who would've think it?

Yet when we met up one day in January 2026 at the Fish Pot restaurant on Bay Street, those years melted away, and we picked up right where we left off. We reminisced about long-gone days, laughed at our silly antics, remembered teachers who influenced us, and reflected on the lifelong lessons we carried into our careers and personal lives.

These are friends for life.

***QC Girls Forever.***

# Help Us Celebrate Our Stars: Nominations Now Open!



Behind every great alumni network are the remarkable individuals who continue to make contributions that stir pride in former and current students — and now it's time to shine a spotlight on them.

The Nominations Committee for the 2026 HCQC Alumni Network (HCQCAN) Stars Awards came together in December 2025 with a fresh mission: to bring new energy and wider perspectives to the process. With nine members representing our various alumni groups — including newer graduates — we're excited about the diverse voices helping to shape this year's awards.

But here's the most important part—we need you.

We're inviting members of the HCQC family — past students, current students, and staff — to submit nominations of alumni who are making an impact. Whether in their professions, communities,

or on the global stage, we want to hear about those individuals whose achievements and contributions truly stand out.

Our role as a committee is to gather these nominations, review each submission, and create a shortlist for the HCQCAN Board of Trustees, who will make the final award decisions. In doing so, we look not just at professional success, but also at impact, service, and character.

And that's where your input matters most.

Many of our brightest stars are known first within our own circles — so help us find them. Share their stories, highlight their achievements, and let us celebrate the very best of our alumni community.

Do you know a Star? Please nominate them by April 30th. Send to [dcutt1952@gmail.com](mailto:dcutt1952@gmail.com)



*Here we are with another newsletter from the erudite HC/QC Alumni Association. We would love to have some feedback from you. And especially, we would love your input. We are looking for contributors and fun photos through the ages.*

**Give us your valuable feedback at:  
[communications.hcqc@gmail.com](mailto:communications.hcqc@gmail.com)**

# CARICOM's People Demand Better:

## *What Seven Years of CXC Petitions Tell Us About Accountability, Public Trust, and the Future of CARICOM Education*



**by Paula-Anne Moore**  
**Spokesperson and Coordinator**  
**Caribbean Coalition for Exam Redress**  
**Group of Concerned Parents of Barbados**

For seven years consecutive years, 2019-2026, CARICOM's children, parents and teachers have been forced into a position no citizen should ever occupy: begging for fairness from their own examining body. More than 80,000 signatures across multiple petitions represent not just frustration, but a regional cry for justice. CXC, once a beacon of Caribbean excellence, has become the centre of repeated public alarm - alarm that is patterned, persistent, and impossible to dismiss.

The crisis began in 2019 with the CSEC Mathematics scandal. Videos of students openly using mobile phones during the exam exposed a collapse in exam security. The uneven invigilation and lack of decisive regional action shook public trust. Thousands demanded a re sit. This was the first signal that something fundamental was breaking.

In 2020, the break became a fracture. Thousands of high achieving students received inexplicably low grades. Teachers could not recognise the results. Families were devastated. The mental health of thousands of children was damaged.

More than 19,000 people demanded a full review. International experts later identified "grade compression" as the likely cause - a statistical or algorithmic failure that punished the region's best students, due to the revised grading process. Approximately 20,000 studies were harmed. The vast majority never received justice.

By 2021, students continued battling a pandemic, economic hardship, illness, digital inequity, and even volcanic trauma. Yet CXC refused to adjust their exams. Four petitions, totalling more than 30,000 signatures, pleaded for the compassion and common sense displayed by other exam bodies globally. They were largely ignored.

In 2023, the region endured two exam security breaches, including the infamous CSEC Mathematics Paper 2 leak. More than 18,000 students demanded that the compromised paper be discarded. In 2024, the CAPE Chemistry Unit 2 exam triggered another petition, with students and teachers insisting the paper was misaligned, unfair, and poorly constructed.

These failures are not isolated. They form a pattern of systemic disregard for student welfare. And they expose a painful contradiction: CARICOM leaders demand justice from the former colonisers through the reparations movement, yet injustice is being inflicted on our own children at home.

The contrast with Cambridge's approach to e testing makes the situation even more troubling. Cambridge has documented a 10-year publicly available digital assessment plan: phased rollout, redesigned exams, pilot testing, mock exams, feedback loops, ICT feasibility studies, and equity safeguards such as maintaining hard copy options. CARICOM's children deserve no less. Yet CXC's digital rollout has been rushed, opaque, and dismissive of the very stakeholders it serves.

Across these seven years, the petitions form a regional diagnostic: a collective audit of CXC's performance in governance, quality assurance, communication, and crisis management. They reveal systemic weaknesses: fragile exam security, opaque grading processes, insufficient stakeholder engagement, inconsistent crisis responses, and gaps in exam design. They also reveal callous communication practices that have deepened public distrust.

But they reveal something else too: the unwavering commitment of CARICOM's people to fairness, transparency, and educational integrity. These petitions are not emotional attacks. They are acts of civic responsibility. They are expressions of regional pride, not rebellion. They are declarations that Caribbean children deserve excellence from our own Caribbean institutions.

The question now is whether CXC and CARICOM leadership will treat these petitions as irritants or as evidence. As noise or as data. As complaints or as catalysts for long overdue reform. The region is watching. And the consequences of inaction are already visible. A small but privileged minority is turning to private, expensive alternatives because they no longer trust the system. This quiet exodus, and wider distrust, threatens the legitimacy and reputation of CARICOM's education architecture and undermines the proud legacy of CXC.

In March 2026, CXC hosted its inaugural Regional Education Conference and Ministerial Forum, with 350 delegates from 27 countries and 13 ministers of education. The theme, "Navigating the Digital Age: Rethinking Learning, Teaching, and Assessment" - could not have been more ironic. Were independent student and parent voices included? Was there any acknowledgement of the failures in the January

***Continued on Page 18***

# CARICOM's People Demand Better

*Continued from Page 17*

e-testing rollout to 10,000 students? Major challenges were reported, particularly in Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago, largely officially unacknowledged publicly. Were concrete plans shared for the new hybrid Paper 2 format for May/June 2026? Or was this yet another self congratulatory exercise, disconnected from the lived experiences of the region's children?

***No one is against technological improvement in exams. But that introduction should always be grounded in global testing best practice, acknowledgement of infrastructural limitations in schools, and fairness to students, minimising student stress. We did not see this sufficiently in the etesting launch in January 2026 CXC exams.***

Or...

***Technology isn't the issue; fairness is. E-testing is welcome, but must follow global best-practice testing standards and adequately acknowledge school infrastructural limitations. January 2026's hybrid exam rollout did not.***

CARICOM's people - especially its children and parents - have spoken clearly, repeatedly, and constructively. The next move belongs to the leaders entrusted with safeguarding the future of Caribbean education. The region is not asking for miracles or handouts. It is demanding competence, transparency, accountability, and a duty of care worthy of our children.

**It is time - past time - for CARICOM education authorities to definitively respond.**

CARICOM PETITIONS RE CXC (2019–2026)			
Year	Petition	Signatories	Core Reason
2019	Re-sit 2019 CSEC Math (Antigua)	4,920	Security breach; phones used during exam; compromised integrity.
2019	Redo CSEC Math (T&T)	Hundreds	Widespread leak; invigilation failures; inconsistent exam conditions.
2019	Region-wide call for new Math exam	2,000+	Video evidence of cheating; fairness concerns.
2020	"We Demand a Review of the 2020 CXC Results"	19,081	Alleged grading errors; SBA mismatch; call for full review.
2020	Review of July 2020 Results	~950	Confusion over release; suspected inconsistencies.
2021	Student Petition on Exam Structure	22,905	Pandemic disruptions; mental-health strain; inequitable conditions.
2021	Caribbean Union of Teachers Petition	4,978	Need for consultation; student welfare concerns.
2021	Caribbean Coalition for Exam Redress Petition	1,035	Duty of care; ethical leadership; trauma-informed decision-making.
2021	St. Lucia Petition on Exam Structure	987	Digital inequities; need for flexible exam options.
2023	"Do Not Accept CSEC Math Paper 02"	18,000+	Security breach; unfair advantage; call for alternative grading.
2024	CAPE Chemistry Unit 2 Paper 2 Petition	2,479	Misaligned syllabus; ambiguous questions; unfair weighting.
2026	Petition on Hybrid Exams & E-Testing Rollout	2,600+ (2,400 in 5 days)	Concerns about school digital readiness & equity, training, ICT infrastructure, and lack of stakeholder consultation.

# 2026 Barbados General Elections: Notable HC & QC Alumni



*The Hon. Mia Mottley, QC alumna, Prime Minister of Barbados*

In the 2026 Barbados general election held on February 11, several prominent alumni from Queen's College and Harrison College were among the 93 candidates who contested for the 30 seats in the House of Assembly.

## Queen's College Alumni

**Mia Amor Mottley (BLP):** The Prime Minister and leader of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP), who successfully retained her seat in St. Michael Northeast to lead her party to a third consecutive 30–0 sweep.

**Santia Bradshaw (BLP):** The Deputy Prime Minister and incumbent for St. Michael Southeast, who was the first candidate declared a winner on election night.

**Sandra Husbands (BLP):** Successfully contested and retained her seat in St. James South.



*Ralph Thorne, HC alumnus, former president of the DLP.*

## Harrison College Alumni

- **Wilfred Abrahams (BLP):** The Attorney General who successfully contested the Christ Church East constituency.
- **Ralph Thorne (DLP):** Then leader of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) and former Opposition Leader, who contested the St. John constituency but was defeated by the BLP's Charles Griffith.
- **Bertnul Ricardo Harrison (FOD):** A candidate for the Friends of Democracy (FOD) party who vied for the St. Michael North seat.
- **Gregory Nicholls (BLP):** Successfully contested and retained the St. Thomas constituency.
- **Ryan Walters (DLP):** A high-profile DLP candidate who contested the St. Michael Northwest seat in a closely watched race against the BLP's Neil Rowe

The election resulted in a historic third "clean sweep" for the Mia Mottley-led BLP, which secured all 30 parliamentary seats.



*Santia Bradshaw, QC Alumna, Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados*

## Key Statistics

- **Voter Turnout:** Approximately 37.3% of the 271,205 registered voters participated, reflecting concerns over voter apathy.
- **Popular Vote:**
  - o BLP: 71,109 votes (~69.8%).
  - o DLP: 27,808 votes (~27.3%).
- **Opposition Status:** For the third straight election cycle, there is no official opposition in the Lower House.

## Notable Developments

- **Defeat of Opposition Leader:** Ralph Thorne, then leader of the DLP, lost his bid for the St. John seat. Following the defeat, Thorne resigned as leader of the DLP.
- **Anti-Defection Amendment:** Shortly after the win, the government introduced a constitutional amendment requiring MPs to vacate their seats if they resign or are expelled from their party, a move designed to prevent "crossing the floor" during terms without an opposition.