



THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF WATCHMAKING

A **WOSTEP** PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL



British School of Watchmaking

AUTUMN 2020

WELCOME BACK TO BSOW

Due to the onset of the pandemic we missed our spring 2020 edition.

Thankfully we're back up and running now and have our Autumn newsletter to share.

It's not all about lockdown, a lot has been happening since the last news letter, see inside for further details!

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WE ARE NOW A REGISTERED CHARITY REG NO 1186365

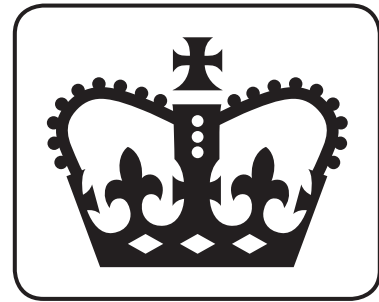
We want to share some fantastic news with you!
In November 2019 the school gained charity status.

This is also great news for our supporters and those considering becoming future supporters.

It means that any financial donation made to support us, can be off set 100% entirely as an "allowable deduction" against your corporation tax each year!

If you would like to know more or help support the school, please send us an email for further information.

Additionally, this opens other avenues of benefits to the school, which will help us towards our next stage of evolution, providing some of the world's best graduate watchmakers in the UK.



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**



1800 HOUR COURSE

As 2019 drew to a close, so too did our second 1800 Hour Course. The group of students worked tirelessly, as did our tutors. Consequently the excellent results we had seen in December 2018 were beaten, making this our highest achieving 1800 hour class.

The BSOW was chosen by WOSTEP to run and help further develop the 1800 Hour Course. As the first 1800 Hour Course in Europe and the first taught by an independent school worldwide, the 2018 session was our pilot course. With this invaluable learning experience under our belt the 2019 session was thankfully a little less stressful for all involved.

Based on the work we have seen from students so far we have great expectations for our 2020 group and wish them all well in the final exam. This group is again more than capable of world leading results.

The completion of this 2020 session will see a further eight Service Watchmakers entering the trade in January 2021.

WORKING THROUGH LOCKDOWN

Cancel or delay courses until the lockdown ended? No chance! Our students returned home with all of the watches and tools they needed, built their own workshops and continued to learn!

Our tutors worked tirelessly throughout the lockdown, teaching practical lessons and theory via Zoom. Practical lessons taught at distance were always going to be a challenge but the dedication and commitment of both our tutors and students really made this work.

Our students didn't just maintain their skills at the level they were at when they left, they also learned to service automatic full calendar chronographs at distance. When they returned to the school slightly ahead of the syllabus, we were of course absolutely delighted.

Everyone concerned rose to the challenge learning very rapid and extremely valuable lessons along the way. The whole experience has made us stronger and more resilient than ever.



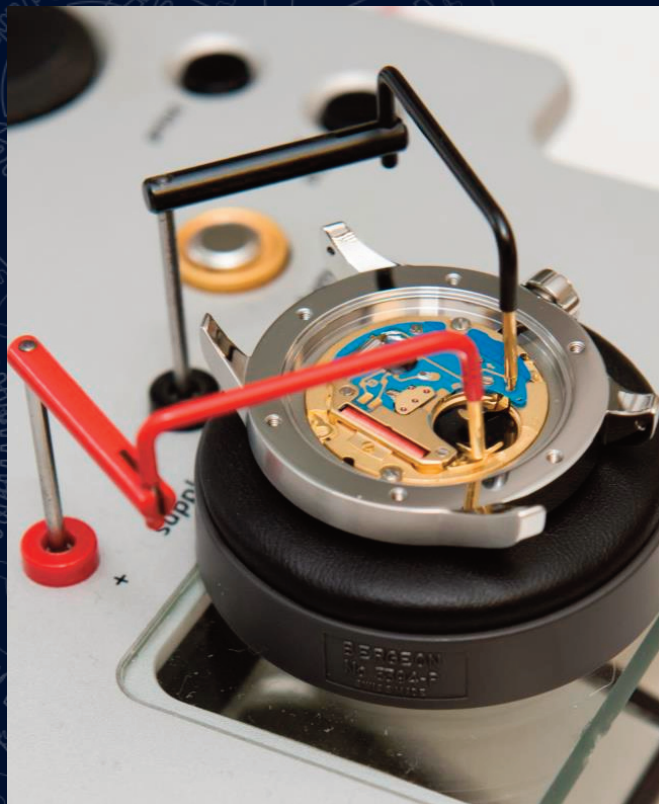
THE REAL TEST

Teaching through a pandemic is one thing, returning to 'normal' work is another. With a 'new look' socially distanced school, temperature checks, shift working and dry skin from all the handwashing, the lockdown Zoom video lessons were put to the test.

Our 1800 hour students sat their WOSTEP Intermediate Exam, the first official examination following our return. The results of this exam showed how the students had coped with such major disruption to their studies.

16 watches were serviced and the results returned from WOSTEP Switzerland. With a class average of 95.13% any concerns we may have had were quickly forgotten. Not only had everyone passed, these were the highest results from this exam we had achieved in three years of running the course.

A huge congratulations and well done to all of the students concerned! A great result and real testament to your resolve in such unprecedented circumstances.



3000 HOUR COURSE 2021

Following the interruption to our examination schedule caused by the lockdown earlier this year, our summer examination for 3000 hour students was delayed. The examination will now take place alongside that of our 1800 Hour Course, in December. New students will then begin their studies in January 2021.

Although disruptive to our current course, this move from following an academic year to running a calendar year will be used to our advantage for future 3000 Hour Courses. We have seen that our 1800 Hour Course is more employer orientated, with graduates a little better prepared for the workplace. As such we will now be moving our 3000 Hour Course to the same working hours, same holidays and most importantly giving the same employment focused learning to future students taking this course.

Students will now have 3600 hours of learning time. This additional time allows us to not only further develop their traditional watchmaking skills, but also to help make them more productive and better suited to employment in the mainstream industry.



KEY DATES

1800 & 3000 Course Final

Examinations
December 2020

1800 & 3000 Course

Graduation
23rd February 2021

1800 Course Application

Deadline
1st July 2021

1800 Hour Course Final

Examination
December 2021

There is absolutely no doubt that so far this has been one of the most challenging years in the school's history, this is something I'm sure many people can relate to.

Thankfully, for the school at least, we have weathered this storm well so far and are in a much stronger, more resilient position than this time last year. There are a lot of negatives to talk about but, so far, these are outweighed by the positives.

I hope the same is true for your own businesses and also that 2021 is a little calmer and more predictable than 2020!

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