



Development *Matters*

Number 4 | December 2019

Founding Futures - bursary campaign update

In May we launched our most ambitious fundraising campaign at the School and hope that you will get behind our aims to open the doors of the School to more children whose potential far outweighs their financial means.

We believe an Ipswich School education can be transformative for children and their families and we wish to support as many as we can on 100% bursary assistance in the School.

The launch night saw performances from some of the School's talented music students as well as a speech from John Poulter, former governor and supporter; Rosie Geelymuyden OI, bursary recipient; and a piano performance from Harrison Cole OI, himself a music scholar at Ipswich.

The fund has so far raised almost £200,000 with generous support from the Lord Belstead Charitable Trust, the OI Club, individual OIs, and other supporters of the School.

We hope that this investment in the future of young people in education will continue. If you would like to support the Founding Futures campaign then please get in touch with Nikki Brown, Development Director.



THANK YOU - Potential to be unlocked through bursary campaign

We are pleased to announce that the Founding Futures endowment is now able to support another student in the School. So far the endowment, which is the start of our investment in the future of Ipswich School and the pupils who come here, is supporting two, fully assisted places in the School per annum. The first pupil started in September 2019 and they are already flourishing in the Ipswich School environment.

It is down to the generosity of OIs and supporters

of the School that has brought opportunity to this young person. They show extraordinary promise in their education and co-curricular achievements so far, promise we believe can be unlocked through an Ipswich School education.

The work doesn't stop here, we want to continue to offer opportunity and promise to any young person with potential, drive and passion. Please contact Development Director, Nikki Brown to help us change more young lives through education.

Wolsey Business Club

We are very pleased to share that five businesses are already helping us in the bursary campaign.

MHA Larking Gowen, JLS Catering, Ryans Insurance, Christchurch Vets and Whybrow, have each committed to make annual donations as members of the Wolsey Business Club. Each of these donations will go towards providing places for pupils who will receive transformational 100% bursary assistance at School.

Members of the Wolsey Business Club receive a bespoke benefits package. If you would like your business to be involved please get in touch with James Fletcher, Development Manager.



CONTACT US

We love to hear from our community, the School is rich in history and connections.

Please do get in touch with any member of the Development team to update your details or your contact preferences, to arrange a visit, to find out more about anything covered in this edition of Development Matters, or explore ways to help our current and future pupils.

We would love to speak to you.

Nikki Brown, Development Director
Direct line: 01473 298961
Email: nlb@ipswich.school

James Fletcher, Development Manager
Direct line: 01473 298964
Email: jdf@ipswich.school

Carrie Baker, Development Officer
Direct line: 01473 408324
Email: cab@ipswich.school



The meaning of an Ipswich School Education

We have been delighted that some of our past pupils who received financial assistance in the School have been willing to share their stories of how an Ipswich School education has shaped their lives. Most recently Hannah McFarland has shared with us the impact she still feels today.

I do often wonder if my life would have turned out quite the way it has if Ipswich School hadn't taken a chance on me as a slightly precocious "girly swot" of an 11-year-old. It is of course impossible to know for sure, but I have no doubt it would have been considerably less likely that I would have had available both the opportunities I have had, and the confidence to take them, if it wasn't for the seven years I spent at Ipswich School.

I'm fortunate in that I've always been clever, and have parents who were determined that I take advantage of that good fortune. I was less fortunate to be at a state primary school where being clever made you a target; the teachers were generally wonderful, but my experiences with some fellow pupils meant I was desperate to get away from that system by the time secondary school came around. Perhaps there was a time when my parents would have tried saving up for a private education for me, but then life intervened. Redundancy. Divorce. House repossession. A new reliance on benefits to keep on top of the bills. All of this meant that the idea of spending tens of thousands of pounds on school fees was now completely laughable.

I will forever be grateful to Ipswich School (and the benefactors who make the Bursary scheme possible) for the wonderful opportunity they gave me.

I'm sure we all thought that this particular dream was over. That is, until we heard of these things called bursaries that some private schools offered to children who had plenty of academic potential, but who were from a financially disadvantaged background. And make no mistake about it, low income families are massively disadvantaged in so many walks of life - education, health, social mobility. The fact that some organisations try to do what they can to mitigate some of this disadvantage, even if they're only in a position to do so for a small number of people, continues to amaze me. I will forever be grateful to Ipswich School (and the benefactors who make the Bursary scheme possible) for the wonderful opportunity they gave me.

My time at Ipswich School was genuinely an incredibly happy period of my life. Being pushed academically now became an expectation, rather than a surprise, and having the opportunity to be taught by such knowledgeable, passionate teaching staff was such an amazing feeling. In the Sixth Form, I became captain of the netball team, and also Head Girl.

On Thursday afternoons older pupils had the opportunity to do more extra-curricular activities. For this, I spent four years helping out at two local special schools, which taught me a huge amount of patience and empathy, and has left me with life skills I still use to this day in my current career in paediatrics. One of the enduring effects of my time at Ipswich School was in giving me confidence to push myself, and to feel more at ease in a wide variety of surroundings. The advantages of a good



education don't just come from what you learn in the classroom.

There were too many teachers who had an impact on me during this time for me to name them all, but there are two in particular to whom I will always owe a particular debt of gratitude. The first was Karen Hoskins. She was a brilliant teacher and someone I could talk to if I was worried about anything. That sort of pastoral support completely embodied the spirit of the school. The second one was Gareth Jones, my Sixth Form Chemistry teacher. If it wasn't for a slightly off-the-cuff (and typically gruff) comment from him - "McFarland, have you thought about applying to Oxbridge?" - I may never have thought about pushing myself in that particular direction.

But that's what happened. An application to Cambridge University to read medicine. An acceptance letter that arrived at school and was delivered to me in a biology class. And then off to Downing College, Cambridge as the first person in my immediate family to even go to university.

I spent three very happy years studying pre-clinical medicine there, before transferring to King's College London to complete my training, where I graduated with an MBBS with Distinctions in Clinical Sciences and Clinical Practice. I then spent two years in the North East of England as a Foundation doctor ("House Officer", as it once was) before taking a year out to live and work in Christchurch, New Zealand, which was just the most amazing experience.

I genuinely believe being awarded this bursary changed my life.

I then returned to the UK to start paediatric training in the East Midlands, which is where I'm still working currently, now as a paediatric registrar (senior doctor). I have also now completed all of my postgraduate exams, which has given me a few more letters for the end of my name. I've recently bought a house in Derbyshire with my partner, with my eye now on "buying a dog" as my next major life goal.

As I look back over these things I've done since leaving Ipswich School, I sometimes still can't quite believe how lucky I've been. I will always be grateful to the school for giving me the knowledge, the skills and the ambition to achieve what I have, while continuing to reflect on how unfair it is that these same opportunities aren't available to all children.

I genuinely believe being awarded this bursary changed my life. One day I hope to be in a position to help another child from a disadvantaged background have access to the same sort of education I did.

Dr Hannah McFarland MA (Cantab) MBBS MRCPCH (OI 1999-2006)

THANK YOU

As ever, we'd like to express our sincere thanks to all of you who have supported the School. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by such a generous community that recognises the value of giving back in order to support young people through their education.

A Decade of Music



This year, the Ipswich School Festival of Music celebrated its tenth year and was another massive success. World renowned jazz musician Courtney Pine opened the festival in style, and brilliant performances from The Swingles, The Judy Garland Story, the Family Concert and the Big Band wowed audiences over the five days.

We would like to extend thanks to our festival sponsors, Keeper Recruitment, Christchurch Vets, The OI Club and Karl Daniels for their generous support of the events. Thanks also goes to the Friends of Ipswich School for lollies for the children at the family concert. These contributions made another great festival.

Venice to Rome Cycle Ride



A team of 10 from Ipswich School completed a gruelling five days in the saddle this autumn to raise funds for St Elizabeth Hospice and Founding Futures. Staff, past pupils, parents and friends of the school took on the 400 mile ride which saw them climb 21,120 feet of mountains.

They have raised £24,000 between them to be shared between the hospice and the bursary campaign. We hope to arrange more events like this so please keep an eye on the website for future opportunities.

FOIS Donations

Over the summer holidays, the Friends of Ipswich School generously donated some of the funds raised through their activities to improving facilities for children in the senior school including a table tennis table under the library. It has proven so popular there is a lengthy wait for a turn! FOIS hope to continue this kind of support which greatly adds to the pupils' lives in School.