

Birkenhead School Donor Report 2020-21



BIRKENHEAD
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Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2020-21 Donor Report which provides a snapshot of just one area of alumni generosity over the course of the last twelve months.

It has been another academic year impacted by Covid, but, importantly, not defined by it. The School is flourishing: numbers continue to grow, we are attracting outstanding staff determined to inspire the next generation, and our belief in educating both inside and outside the classroom burns brightly. Importantly, we remain focused on providing students with all the qualifications, skills and values to enable them to thrive, and inspire others, sustainably, beyond Birkenhead.

Your role within this journey has been crucial, and remains integral to our future plans. Whether it is building on the £97k donations raised this last year, volunteering your time and expertise on Council or in Archives, delivering a Nicholls Series Lecture to the Sixth Form, your contributions leave a lasting legacy. Every year, a number of students leave the Upper Sixth at Birkenhead School with their lives transformed by your generosity in giving them access to an education that would otherwise have been out of their reach. Thank you.

Over the coming years, we will seek to transform the lives of even more Wirral families. We will also drive forward a number of strategic projects including the refurbishment of the Library, and planning for the building of new indoor sporting facilities, emphasising the importance we attach to an all-round education. To do all this, we need your help, and early in 2022 we will deliver a platform that will facilitate a greater ease of social and professional networking amongst Birkonians and friends of Birkenhead School. Exciting times lie ahead.

It remains a huge privilege to lead Birkenhead School, and drive our community, together, to even greater heights.

Beati Mundo Corde.



*Paul Vicars
Headmaster
Birkenhead School*





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BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

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Every effort has been made to ensure that this publication is accurate. If you would like to discuss any of the content, please get in touch.

Support Birkenhead School Foundation Trust

A Plea from Lorraine Dodd,

Governor and Chair of Birkenhead School Foundation Trust

How many of you are aware of Birkenhead School Foundation Trust? Do you know how it supports the whole School? You might have read about the School's vision to fund transformational bursaries but did you realize that the Foundation Trust is a key element in the strategy to achieve this?

I was asked, many years ago, whether I would join as a Governor, although my experience of public schools, especially

those for boys only, was distinctly limited! This was seen as an advantage as I could ask the 'stupid questions' as a newcomer (supported by my OB Prep husband) and my work in investment management might come in useful. The rest, as they say, is history and what changes I have seen over the intervening years.

There have been so many improvements with the physical development and

refurbishment of the School campus and sports facilities. Important though these are, the emphasis on the ethos of the whole School, Seniors and Prep, has created a welcoming and supportive environment in which every student can aspire to achieve their potential to the best of their abilities and talents.

Becoming a co-educational School was transformational and, quite rightly, is now taken for granted. Our School has grown significantly in student numbers together with its reach into the local communities but more needs to be done.

The main objective of the Foundation Trust, a charity created in 1998, is to support the activities of the School mainly but not exclusively to provide bursary funding out of income. I know how important it can be to a family to get that extra help with fees through a bursary and there will be a number of you, as an OB, who remember the impact of the direct grant and assisted places schemes whether for you personally or one of your school friends.

Looking ahead, our aspiration is to provide increased bursary support in a way which is truly transformational,

'the ethos of the whole School has created a welcoming and supportive environment in which every student can aspire to achieve their potential'

including acting as a catalyst for social mobility in our local communities.

Investment in the School's staff and its facilities remains so important in delivering a positive educational and co-curricular experience for all our students, now and in the future.

Please support us by making any donation you can. It will make such a practical difference to the level of transformational bursaries we can provide in a sustainable way in the years ahead.

*Lorraine Dodd
Governor and Chair of Birkenhead School
Foundation Trust*



‘With Thanks’ from OB Charlotte Cullen (‘11 -‘18)

I joined Birkenhead School in 2011, starting in Year 7. Due to the kindness and sheer generosity of donors, I was eligible to be the recipient of a bursary which covered 80% of my fees. Without this, I wouldn't have been able to come to Birkenhead, so it inspired me to make the most of an outstanding, focused, and tailored education programme that I might not have received at another school.

Throughout my years as a pupil, I fully immersed myself academically and through extra-curricular activities. Mainly participating in sport, I was Netball captain from Year 7-10 and enjoyed being a member of various other teams. I was also active within the Music Department, performing as part of the ‘Cantata Choir’ and receiving regular piano lessons. However, the highlight was my appointment as Head of School in 2017. This was the greatest honour I had received to date, and I strove to use this position to both add value to the school but also to give back as I had received so much time, support, and dedication from staff throughout my school career. From this, year upon year, I grew, matured, and was challenged to be the best I could be. This is something which has stayed with me throughout my professional career so far. Birkenhead has also taught me the art of resilience, one of the most important attributes that I believe a person can have, and for which I am so grateful.

At such a young age, it is difficult to decide exactly what you want to do with the rest of your life, but through extensive support from the careers service and subject teachers during Sixth Form, I finally decided I wanted to study Law at University. Upon receiving an offer from the University of Sheffield, I moved in 2018 and quickly discovered that I wanted to pursue a career in Law, as a Solicitor, after graduating. Due to both the exceptional academic standards and unwavering support that was afforded to me, Birkenhead School provided so many opportunities during my time that allowed me to be at the top of my game when applying for prospective job openings. As you may well know, the process for receiving a training contract is extremely competitive, with many applicants applying for a handful of places.

‘Birkenhead School provided so many opportunities that allowed me to be at the top of my game’

With just one place available, and after a gruelling seven stage recruitment process, I was offered the training contract with a Law firm in Sheffield called Kennedys. During feedback, I was informed that I had stood out from my competitors due to my experience, skills, and resilience, which had largely been shaped by my time at Birkenhead. Kennedys have been kind enough to fund my Solicitors Qualifying

Exam, which I am completing part-time, whilst working in the Healthcare department. In just less than two and a half years, I will be a fully qualified Solicitor.

Starting in late September this year, I have primarily worked on clinical negligence claims for our biggest client; NHS Resolution, but I also have worked for private healthcare clients such as Spire, and Nuffield Health. There is a common stereotype of big law firms that their junior staff are mistreated in the sense that they are forced to work long hours with little exposure to work. However, in just under two months, I have aided on multi-million-pound cases and have had the opportunity to shadow lawyers in many instances, such as at inquests and other external conferences with the Courts.

Looking back, I feel so grateful for my time at Birkenhead School. From the unparalleled academic standards and personal support to the wealth of extra-curricular opportunities, Birkenhead has provided me with a plethora of skills and attributes to

become not only professionally successful but a well-rounded person. Without the continued support and generosity from donors like mine, I can say with absolute certainty I wouldn't be where I am today.

Charlotte Cullen (‘11-‘18)



Charlotte Cullen at Kennedy's Law Firm in Sheffield where she is completing her training contract to become a solicitor.

Why I Give An OB reflection

There are several recent shining examples of why Birkenhead deserves the first class educational opportunities supplied by the School.

These include the alumni achievements of a Supreme Court Judge (under its former style a 'Law Lord'), a leading Circuit Judge, an Anglican Primate, a Bishop and a recent FRS all from my own generation, with a Director General of the BBC and a First Sea Lord from the following years.

Without this centre of excellence, where will such talent in Birkenhead develop its full potential?

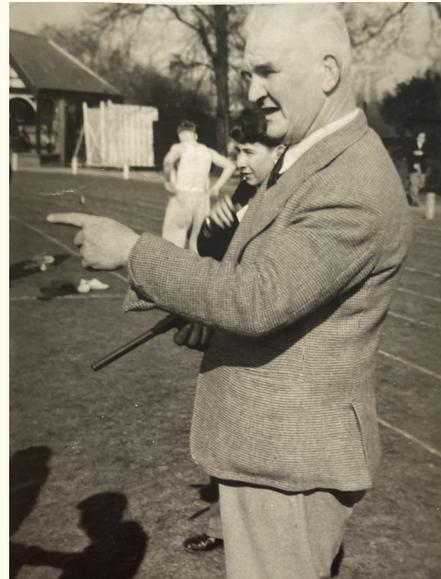
We (the majority) who have developed our own small talents to a more modest level, owe much of it to the School. In gratitude for these foundations, we should welcome the opportunity to encourage talented scholars who

could not otherwise afford to attend, by contributing to a bursary scheme which might in a small way replace the lost and sorely-missed Direct Grant element in the past state education system, from which many of us benefited in our day.

Martin, who offered these thoughts, prefers to remain anonymous to all except those who knew him at School. Martin will be best known to those who owed much to the 'tender care' of C W Jones, I P Salisbury, T A Pringle, F C Ellis, H L Walker, A Green MC., S M Watson and K.D.R., and their generation of excellent Staff members.



CCF Camp at Kimmel Bay, Rhyl, 1952



C W 'Charlie' Jones (1893 - 1960) joined Birkenhead School in 1932 as PE Master until his retirement in 1958. Charlie served in the Welsh Regiment during the First World War and was also a Welsh International Rugby player during the 1920s.



High jump, 1944

Summary of Donations 2020-2021

Total received
this year:
£97,000

(2019-20 funds raised £42,600)
(2018-2019 funds raised £22,000)

The total received includes the annual bursary contributions from the Neil Gracey Fund and the War Memorial Access Scholarships, both managed by the Old Birkenian Society, this year to the amount of **£37,995** supporting 9 students.

Current students
supported

72

Will you help make dreams a reality?

*Donate today
to help children
reach their full
potential*

A donation to Birkenhead School bursaries will help children to access a better education and future.

Visit www.birkenheadschool.co.uk/Alumni/Help-the-School to donate or contact Carol Keegan on 0151 651 3098 for more information.



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The Foundation Trust

For many decades, children from across Wirral have benefited from the outstanding all-round education available at Birkenhead School, with many of them going on to take up responsible positions in society.

They were able to do this irrespective of social status or parental means during the era of Direct Grants and Assisted Places, which is now long gone. There remains the opportunity for the School, thanks to generous benefactors, to support attendance for those who would otherwise find the fees prohibitive.

Many give to acknowledge the opportunities that opened up for them through attendance at Birkenhead School, some recognising financial assistance from which they benefited or keen to enable other children to have the best possible educational foundations and opportunities.

The School welcomes all gifts to the Foundation Trust, which will be used to provide support to those students who will gain most from it.



How contributions will be used

Since its inception in 1998, the Foundation Trust has supported students to a value in excess of £1 million and there are currently around 75 students in School receiving support from the Foundation Trust Bursary Scheme.

The majority of the fund is managed by Rathbone Investment Management, and the Trustees include Governors of the School, the Headmaster, the Senior Deputy Head, and the Head of Prep.

All donations are gratefully received and will be put to good use. Gifts or bequests of £13,000 or more (currently equivalent to approx. one year's fees), with the donor's or executor's permission, will be acknowledged on the Benefactors' Board in Bushell Hall.

The Trustees wish to extend their warmest thanks to all benefactors and to stress the importance of the fund in enabling children to access the quality of education offered by Birkenhead School.

**By way of illustration:
If 40 donors gave £30 per month for 7 years,
this would enable a full 'Access Scholarship'
for a child to attend the School
from Year 7 through to Sixth Form,
setting them up for life.**

In carrying out their duties, the Trustees will exercise due diligence in the way they invest and use donors' money to the benefit of children at the School. Donors are welcome to give to general funds or to restricted funds to be used for a specific purpose.

Can you open the door to success?

Leave a legacy
and provide a
brighter future

Leaving a gift in your will to Birkenhead School is the
perfect way to help the next generation to thrive.

Visit www.birkenheadschoo.co.uk/Alumni/Help-the-School to donate
or contact Carol Keegan on 0151 651 3098 for more information.



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Donors 2020-21

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| PH Abrahams | (OB '59 - '65) | P Evans | (OB '58 - '65) | MB Owen OBE | (OB '55 - '60) |
| I Adams | (OB '77 - '83) | IJ Exley | (OB '64 - '71) | JP Parke | (OB '57 - '64) |
| NS Aitken | (OB '57 - '64) | E Hignett | (OB '48 - '56) | NR Poole | (OB '49 - '55) |
| N Berry | (OB '87 - '94) | DM Hoblyn * | (OB '40 - '48) | DJ Powers | (OB '58 - '65) |
| WM Bickerstaffe | (OB '55 - '62) | AP Howard | (OB '49 - '63) | JT Proffitt | (OB '55 - '63) |
| DL Bishop * | (OB '44 - '52) | DW Hughes | (OB '56 - '62) | TA Purcell | (OB '46 - '54) |
| I Boumphrey | (OB '49 - '61) | WJ Jenkins | (OB '59 - '66) | WJA Rankin | (OB '57 - '64) |
| AK Bradley | (OB '44 - '51) | GE Jones | (OB '56 - '63) | RJ Reeve | (OB '58 - '65) |
| GR Brown | (OB '47 - '55) | RM Jones | (OB '59 - '66) | PJ Roberts | (OB '74 - '81) |
| MG Brown MBE | (OB '44 - '55) | BAG King | (OB '44 - '48) | H Robertson | (OB '95 - '02) |
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| S Clayton | (OB '53 - '61) | VSD Logan | (OB '42 - '50) | GN Roe | (OB '60 - '66) |
| JR Croker | (OB '57 - '64) | SR Lucas | (OB '55 - '61) | His Hon J Rogers QC | (OB '51 - '57) |
| HB Daghish | (OB '55 - '69) | JF MacAulay | (OB '55 - '62) | MS Shelton CBE | (OB '47 - '55) |
| M Dixon | (OB '57 - '64) | GF MacAulay * | (OB '48 - '56) | A Silverstone | (OB '58 - '64) |
| AMM Dodd | (OB '47 - '53) | J McCullagh | (OB '61 - '68) | R Skelly | (OB '57 - '65) |
| HJ Dodd | (OB '61 - '68) | MS Mitchell DL | (OB '73 - '80) | J Slater | (OB '58 - '65) |
| S Downey | (OB '65 - '72) | RM Morrison | (OB '53 - '66) | R Stubbs | (OB '58 - '65) |
| B Dunn MBE | (OB '48 - '54) | Mrs J Neale | | A Sutton | (OB '52 - '65) |
| I Evans | (OB '54 - '61) | B Nixon | (OB '46 - '51) | GR Thomas | (OB '47 - '54) |
| | | G Norcliffe | (OB '50 - '61) | JM Thomson | (OB '55 - '63) |

E Thornes (OB '58 - '65)
AT Treacy (OB '58 - '65)
PR Vicars (current Headmaster)
P Warr (OB '48 - '55)
AN Wawn (OB '53 - '63)
Sir A Whittam Smith CBE (OB '47 - '55)
P Williams (OB '57 - '64)
S Wilson (OB '75 - '82)

24 donors wish to remain anonymous.

* deceased

We would also like to thank those who have given significant amounts to the Foundation Trust, and who appear on the Benefactors' Board:

Captain HB Daghish LVO JP DL RN
The Johnson Foundation
G E Jones
D M Hoblyn
R H Hubbard
BAG King
G F MacAulay
J F MacAulay
His Hon D I Mackay
H McCready
MBNA Education Foundation
The McAllester Trust
The Old Birkonian Society
M B Owen OBE
His Hon R Pickering
His Hon J Rogers QC
Mrs E A Sherrat
Andrew Sutton
Mr F and Mrs H Wharton

With thanks to:

The Old Birkonian Society

Birkenhead School Parents' Association

who have contributed funds for a number of projects throughout the year.





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