



OUNDLÉ

School

Bursary Report 2019

"The most important thing that I have learned over the last seven years is to say yes to as many opportunities as possible and I believe this will be my greatest asset in future life. My time at Oundle has had a lasting impact on my life."

Joel Gold (Ldr 19)

Oundle Bursaries

Offering an education to children who would greatly benefit from all that Oundle has to offer but who are unable to take advantage because of financial circumstance, has long been a steadfast commitment of the School. Oundle is founded on philanthropy and we profoundly value the ethos of giving, whether it be educating pupils in the importance of contributing to the wider society of which they are part or, more fundamentally, enabling access to such an education.

As we continue to move forward as a School, the Governing Body remains committed to increasing bursary provision significantly. Indeed, in 2018 the School pledged to remove fee remission from scholarships in order to increase the bursary fund and we are now proud to offer a programme of financial aid based wholly on careful means-testing.

Since 2013, The Foundation has raised over £3.5m in support of our bursary endeavours and, on behalf of the hundreds of children who have benefited, we would like to offer our

heartfelt thanks to all Old Oundelians (OOs), parents and supporters who have made this possible. It is a privilege to bring these pupil stories to life within these pages and to highlight the richness that they in turn have brought to Oundle.

The Oundle Society



Our Way Of Working

The Foundation funds two programmes: the General Bursary Scheme, which offers between 10% and 100% fee remission both on application and in response to drastic changes in circumstances, and the Life-Changing Bursary Scheme (LCBS), which seeks to provide opportunities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are identified as being particularly likely to benefit from a boarding education.

The LCBS is operated in partnership with other charities which help to identify suitable candidates and offer pastoral support outside of term time. This not only optimises those children's chances of success but also their potential positive impact on their community and peers.

Our well-established partnership with Springboard (now the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation or Royal

Springboard) has been appraised by them over the past three years and assessed as having a "very positive" impact. We continue to work with the Eastside Young Leaders' Academy in addition to developing newer partnerships with the Ormiston Academies Trust and Lord Agnew's Boarding Schools Partnership, which seeks to provide boarding opportunities for children in foster care. Oundle is well-equipped to support such children thanks to an increased focus on mental and emotional well-being for all pupils over the past few years and dedicated staff in our Health Centre.

Demand continues to outstrip funds and competition for bursaries is strong. In order to treat fairly all applications received throughout the year, we assess all awards on their merits irrespective of how far in advance of the deadline they are received.

2017 - 2018 Bursary Highlights

- 16 bursary award holders (10 boarders and 6 day pupils), completed their Oundle education
- 10 of these received 100% fee remission:
7 on application and 3 in response to a change in circumstances
- 60% of grades achieved were A* - B; 22% were A* / A



The Life-Changing Bursary Scheme – Pupil Stories

Unless otherwise indicated, all excerpts are from individual pupils' School reports, written by either their Tutor or Housemaster/Housemistress. Minor amendments have been made to protect pupils' identity where appropriate.

Pupil A “... We will all be sad to see pupil A leave as she has left a legacy of gentle unassuming presence which, although not always headline news, is very important to the smooth running of a House. She has worked hard and achieved success despite having health challenges in recent years.

Pupil A has been a delight to tutor over the years. From her entry into the School, she has impressed me with her determination and focus. Meeting the demands of our regular tests and exams was a significant challenge, but one to which she rose as she has risen successively over her senior School career, growing in personal confidence along the way. Modest and often self-effacing, she has learned to respect herself and to give herself credit for achieving so much, often against the odds as in her Sixth Form years which from Easter 2017 have been dogged by illness. Her performance in her AS Maths last summer was a testimony to her attitude and determination as well as to her ability.

After her strong GCSE performance, she moved with confidence into her chosen programme, always with the

vocational focus of Veterinary Medicine before her, and from this goal and aspiration she has never wavered. Her work experience in this field has been varied and thoroughly impressive, as have been the testimonies returned. She shows initiative and resolve in this as in all areas. Learning to speak out, to question and to present in public have been hurdles for her but she has grown in confidence from the early days of English Orals, through accomplishments in Spanish and into the presentation of her own research in her EPQ. That she has matured and is successful in this respect is evidenced by her successful interviews for university places.

Kind and thoughtful, pupil A has always been a considerate member of the House and an excellent role model and mentor for the younger ones. Her gaining of a British Sign Language qualification is a mark of the social concern which she evidences in so many ways not least through her daily interactions with fellow students and her teachers. Without exception her teachers have enjoyed working with her, appreciate her efforts and her progress, commend the integrity of her present study and wish her well for the future.”

Pupil A achieved the equivalent of BBB at A level and gained a university place to read Veterinary Medicine.



Pupil Stories Continued

Pupil B “... I will be sorry to be finally saying goodbye to pupil B at the end of this term. He has made a great success of his time at Oundle. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know him. When I compare the tall, dapper, confident young man who is leaving us with the quiet and rather reserved young boy who joined us, I realise how much he has developed during his time here. He has always retained a fiercely independent work ethic and has set himself high standards. This trait has remained very much a feature of his Sixth Form years. He has also shown himself to be a gifted all-rounder; a key member of the golf team, a key singer in our House Part Song ensemble, a fine footballer (and key member of Paddock), an excellent cricketer, and all this alongside an academic profile that has seen him obtain some stellar GCSE results, an Academic Exhibition and a serious attempt at Oxbridge. Despite the latter not working out, he does still have very good offers and so is very well placed for the next stage in his education.

He has always been a low maintenance tutee and has never caused any problems. I don't think I have had a single email from another member of staff about misbehaviour, lateness or any other misdemeanour. He has performed well on the sports field, excelling at cricket, football and golf, all sports that I hope he will continue throughout university and beyond. Perhaps one day he will pop back to have a round of golf with me. His crowning glory at School may well have been his role in the House Part Song win and the subsequent performance at the Birmingham Symphony Hall in front of nearly 3,000 people – something not many people can put on their CV.

He has always been a good example to lower years, excellent company at the dinner table and a good conversationalist during a duty night. It was a real shame that he didn't get a place at Oxbridge but he will excel wherever he ends up, and will continue to be a credit to the School, his mother and to himself.”

Pupil B gained ABB at A level and is reading Modern Foreign Languages at a Russell Group university.

Pupil C “... The change in pupil C over the past year has been quite incredible. It has been a pleasure to see her mature, both academically and socially, without losing her sunny disposition! The Lower Sixth saw her face considerable academic setbacks, which she has spent the Upper Sixth resolving. Her positive response to the suggestions we have made has helped her establish a calm and purposeful routine in House, as well as it being lovely to see her at breakfast in the mornings. She has attended extra academic sessions when available, and I am thrilled to see this effort reflected in her Personal Investigation mark, which is excellent.

She has thrown herself into House life, is hugely popular in her year and loves a chat. She was a great asset in the recent Thommy Purbrook charity rugby match. She played brilliantly and I hope her love of rugby continues well into her university career and beyond.

She is a delightful girl with a big heart and I am utterly impressed by her grit and determination to succeed. She has responded to all the advice, support and often uncomfortable recommendations we have given her with grace and poise. Whenever she faces a setback, she acknowledges it, then moves up and on. I have every admiration for her. She thoroughly deserves to do well in her exams and I truly hope she gets the results and the university place she deserves. It has been an utter pleasure.”

Pupil C was an LCBS entry for Sixth Form and is reading Media Studies at university having gained DDD grades at A level.



General Bursary Scheme – Pupil Stories

Pupil D “... is now coming to the end of a very distinguished career at Oundle. She has achieved academic success but in addition has been a super role model. Younger years have looked up to her and staff really respect her, both inside the classroom and beyond.

She really does deserve her predictions in August – her work ethic and determination during the course of the year I am sure will win her through. She leaves no stone unturned, clearly single-mindedly driven to secure the highest possible marks. I am confident she will leave Oundle on top form giving her the best possible foundation to begin her studies at Oxbridge.

Out of the class, she continues to shine and was recently awarded a prize at the Community Action Garden Party for her committed work over the past three years with the local Brownies. In the House she has taken the new pupils under her wing as a Prefect, showing compassion to these youngsters and helping with any issues at any time. She has been an absolute delight and a joy to have as a tutee. She is a thoughtful, charming young lady and I wish her all the best in her future studies and beyond.”

Pupil D received an emergency bursary for the Upper Sixth Form. She gained AAA at A level and confirmed her place at Oxbridge.

Pupil E “... When it matters, pupil E generally pulls out all the stops, and this is no more true than with his revision for his A levels over the last few months. I have been really impressed by the seriousness and ambition with which he has approached revision – the hours he has spent at his desk, the volume of additional notes he has made, the number of past paper questions he has answered, his promptness at seeking help from his teachers when he has needed it and his positive response to their advice. I very much hope that his hard work is rewarded with the high final grades I know he is looking to achieve, but whatever grades he gets he will know he tried his best and he cannot ask more of himself than that.

For him, however, School has always been about more than just academic work, and I imagine he has learned as much outside of the classroom as he has from lessons, and certainly a knowledge that will stay with him much longer. He is about to enter a wider and more demanding world. I am confident – truly confident – that his time at Oundle has prepared him to face that world with courage and character and that, whatever he decides to do, he is going to make a success of life. It has been a pleasure tutoring him for the last two years – I have enjoyed his company immensely. I wish him lots of luck.”

Pupil E received an Emergency Bursary for the Sixth Form due to the loss of a parent. He went on to achieve the equivalent of BBB at A level and is reading American Studies and History at a Russell Group university.

Pupil F “... As her time at Oundle comes to an end, it is difficult to sum up all that she has achieved. She has certainly made her presence felt in so many ways and, most of all, she has been a wonderfully positive member of our House community. This year as a Prefect she has led by example and been the kind of role model you really need for the younger girls who all look up to her for guidance and leadership.

In Sixth Form, she has really come into her own and has left no stone unturned in her quest to be absolutely prepared for each of her final exams this summer. She is calm but full of focus and I have been so impressed with her approach to this important time; never letting the stress get to her and finding just the right balance.

Pupil F is never happier than when she has a challenge ahead of her and she has certainly taken on some tough ones in her academic choices as well as physically in her sport. She has a steely determination that has seen her through some turbulent times and she has emerged as a strong,

ambitious and charming young woman. She is a loyal friend and her kind and generous nature enables her to build positive friendships and bring others along with her many ideas. These are important life skills and her ability to mix comfortably with people from any walk of life will serve her well in her life beyond School.

She has given so much to her House and to Oundle. She is an impressive young woman who I am sure will continue to impress all who meet her. She has much to look forward to over the next few years and I have little doubt she will continue to grasp all opportunities with both hands and make the most of any new environment.”

Pupil F was awarded an entry bursary and achieved AAB in her A levels. She will take up a place at a Russell Group university to read Biological Sciences.

Life After Oundle

“Despite being at Oundle for only two years, our memories will last a lifetime. We are hugely grateful for the opportunities we received both inside and outside the classroom, whether that was using SciTec, visiting the Stahl or being able to play on Two Acre. The vast range of what was possible far exceeded anything we had previously encountered and we believe this has allowed us to explore beyond the rugby pitch, which is invaluable in becoming a rounded person. Our rugby development was furthered with the help of the School thanks to quality rugby training, facilities and support from many teachers, without whose generosity the journey would have been a lot harder. The combination of academic and athletic help we benefited from allowed us to grow and maximise our potential whilst forging relationships and gaining experiences that will be with us for a very long time. For this we are massively thankful to Oundle and to the generous benefactors of Oundle’s bursary programme.”

Ben (S 16) & Tom Curry (G 16)

Since leaving Oundle, Ben and Tom have gone on to pursue careers in professional rugby, both playing for Sale Sharks. They have represented England internationally as part of the under-20s squad and Six Nations squad respectively. Tom became the youngest player to start an international for England in 90 years when he made his senior bow in Argentina on the 2017 summer tour.



“Thanks to the generosity of my benefactors, I attended Oundle School from Third Form until Upper Sixth, graduating in 2014. I feel incredibly lucky to have experienced an Oundle education. Over the five years I spent at the School, the dedication shown by my teachers in terms of education and welfare allowed me to grow in confidence and excel academically.

Aside from the outstanding level of education, Oundle provided an endless number of extra-curricular activities to choose from and would always encourage pupils to look beyond academia. From my involvement with the AfricaLink Project to performing in the Stahl Theatre, attending the School opened up so many doors and gave me the opportunity to travel, perform and volunteer in the community. From creating lifelong friendships to the sense of camaraderie felt amongst the pupils in each House, my time at Oundle was an unforgettable experience and changed my life immeasurably. I wish wholeheartedly to thank the School’s donors for giving me the opportunity to attend such a prestigious institution.”

Tegan Luther (L 14)

Since leaving Oundle, Tegan has graduated from Cardiff University with a first class honours degree in Law. She then moved to Jersey in the Channel Islands to work for a leading offshore law firm in the banking and finance sector. In the future, she hopes to complete her legal training in order to work with large charitable organisations and NGOs in a legal capacity.

For further information on how you can support Oundle’s Bursary Programme, please contact The Oundle Society:

T: 01832 277291

Email: oundlesociety@oundleschool.org.uk

www.oundleschool.org.uk/Society

The Oundle Foundation is a Registered Charity No. 1075698



OUNDLE
School
