

100 for 750

Funding Title –

Changing Lives: As in the Past, So in the Future

Fundraising Overview

RGSW exists to provide excellence in education – true to the rigour of its grammar school roots, forward-looking and inclusive. Above all it values those qualities of kindness, honesty, determination and integrity which underpin the development of each individual pupil. And it would like this excellence to be freely available to all those who aspire to such an education, but who may not be able to afford it.

History

The histories of Worcester's Free Grammar School and the Alice Ottley School may vary in length, but both schools owe their origins to enlightened citizens who believed passionately in the value of education. A long time before Mandela termed education "the most powerful weapon ... to change the world", two citizens of Worcester, Robert Yewle and William Langley, went to Court to ensure the survival of the school. In 1883, 40 years after the Grammar School had been granted its second royal charter by Queen Victoria, Alice Ottley founded the Worcester High School for Girls. In 1908 she established a bursary fund as she sought to broaden girls' access to this most precious of gifts, education, in the school which would later bear her name.

The Royal Grammar School Worcester Family of Schools now exists as the 21st century version of these earlier pioneers of educational excellence, its internationally recognised Digital Learning Programme a wonderful example of the School's forward-looking philosophy and part of the reason behind the School's consistent inspection rating of "Outstanding" and "Excellence in all areas". Investment in technology is complemented by exceptional pastoral care to support each pupil and there are extensive opportunities across academia and co-curricular activities that build character and resilience.

Through their long and varied history the schools which now comprise RGSW have been variously independent, government run or state supported. One consequence of this changing governance has been a lack of accumulated endowment funds. AOS was always independent with RGS reverting to independence in 1983 and since the end of the government's Assisted Places Scheme in 1998, all pupils wishing to attend are fee paying. Yet the School has always wished to stay close to its philanthropic tradition. Since 2007, £4.5 million has been allocated from fee income to fund bursary places, supporting on average 70 pupils in recent years. Support from alumni donations since 2015 has enabled the funding of 20 pupils. Despite this, such is the interest in places at RGS, that demand from eligible candidates outstrips the available funding. Sadly, therefore, some deserving pupils have been unable to take up a place.

Vision

Looking back, we can see that RGS has been the grammar school in the city of Worcester for much of its existence, very likely since 685. It was preserved through difficult times by local citizens such that in 1548 there were "above the number of a hundred scolars" benefiting from a grammar school education. Benefactors such as Thomas Moore who, in 1626, made a bequest which would support 10 'blue coat' boys, have played a vital role in ensuring accessibility for pupils. We cannot yet make RGS Worcester accessible to all but, as we look to the future, the Foundation would like to ensure that the philanthropic vision and generosity of previous generations of Worcester citizens is extended into that future.

Goal

The recorded history of RGS Worcester reaches **750 years in 2041**, almost 500 years on from when the grammar school boasted of its "100 scolars". How appropriate would it be if, by then, the RGSW and AOS Foundation were able to raise the number of bursary pupils at the School from **70 to 100**?

By **2026**, the 400th anniversary of Thomas Moore's bequest to the School, we aim to enable **10** additional pupils to attend RGS on sustainably funded bursary places.

By **2041**, 750 years after the dispute between the rector of St Nicholas church and RGS scholars over candlewax ownership was documented in **1291**, we wish to fund the **30** additional bursary pupils in perpetuity from endowed funds of **£18.6 million**.

For many of us who have had an association with the schools that are now RGS Worcester, there is a connection which feels somehow like the bonds of a family or team. We have moved on, but the School remains, in the old grounds of the Whiteladies Estate, fronting the Upper Tything, in the heart of Worcester. In its modern incarnation it offers wonderful, life-changing opportunities from which, sadly, not all deserving children can benefit. It is our hope that you can help us achieve the goal of enabling more and deserving children to become part of this family and to change their lives.