



RGS  
**GIVES**

**OUR  
SOCIAL  
IMPACT**



# SUPPORT A BRIGHTER FUTURE

While we firmly believe in the immense potential of young people from the North East, social mobility statistics remain among the worst in the country, with challenges exacerbated by the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Far too many children in our region are missing out on opportunities that others, born elsewhere, take for granted. We are in the grip of an educational crisis, characterised by teacher shortages and disappointing academic outcomes, particularly evident in GCSE results. Just 4.8% of schools in the North East are rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, compared to 20.3% in London.

According to the Social Mobility Commission's 2024 report, young people living in and around London continue to have better social mobility prospects than in the North East.

The region's below-par academic performance is likely a contributing factor to its above national average unemployment rate.

An analysis for the TUC published in June 2024 estimated that almost one-in-three babies, children, and young people live in poverty in the North East – the highest rate in England. Of those, an estimated 60,000 children are living in very deep poverty (North East Child Poverty Commission, Feb 2024).

It is crucial to recognise that children from these backgrounds possess the same academic potential, aspirations, and capabilities as their peers in other regions. However, they need appropriate support to realise their full potential.

Likewise, dedicated teachers in state schools, working in challenging conditions, require adequate support to enhance student outcomes.

An individual's life chances are profoundly influenced by the ambition and opportunities they are exposed to, with educational achievements and employment prospects heavily shaped by the support and careers advice available at secondary school. This is particularly true for children with a passion and aptitude for learning. By providing intellectually curious and capable young people with the academic challenge they need, we can unlock opportunities for further education and enable them to excel in professional careers and entrepreneurship.

We need such young people from the North East to succeed, remain in our region, and contribute to its prosperity and job creation.

Your support can make a tangible difference.

# WHAT CAN RGS DO?



The Royal Grammar School has stood as a pillar of educational excellence for 500 years. With its rich history and steadfast dedication to academic brilliance, RGS has not only shaped minds but also transformed lives. At the core of this enduring legacy is the remarkable Bursary Campaign. Established in 1997 in response to changes in governmental fee assistance, this campaign has been a lifeline for countless bright students from challenging backgrounds, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their pursuit of academic success and aspirations.

As the oldest educational institution in Newcastle, RGS's five-century legacy has been meticulously nurtured, earning it consistent recognition as The Sunday Times North East Top Independent Secondary School for academic performance. Furthermore, the school proudly holds the prestigious title of Sunday Times North East Independent School of the Decade. Most recently, it was named Independent School of the Year at the Independent School Parent awards - a testament to its unwavering commitment to fostering and sharing academic excellence.



*We want to champion schools that are doing wonderful work. We want our children to be well-nurtured and well-taught.”*

– Helen Davies, the editor of The Sunday Times Parent Power guide





The heart of RGS's impact lies not only in its academic achievements but also in its dedication to inclusivity. In 2002, the Bursary Campaign was launched in response to evolving government policies, with the aim of providing means-tested bursaries to exceptional young individuals from families facing financial challenges. Supported by the generosity of bursary benefactors, this campaign ensures that deserving students can access the transformative education offered by RGS.

Over two decades later, the impact of RGS Bursaries is truly remarkable. By targeting students with proven academic potential but limited financial means, the bursaries break down barriers to education. On average, bursary awards cover an impressive 93.8% of annual fees, turning the dream of attending RGS into a reality for many bright minds.

RGS Bursaries go way beyond financial support; they empower young individuals to overcome challenges and seize opportunities. By providing access to education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, the school plays a crucial role in breaking the cycle of poverty and enabling students to improve their own lives and the lives of their families. Thanks to this visionary approach, some of the brightest minds from the most challenging backgrounds now have the chance to thrive at RGS.

This initiative offers more than just an education - it offers a pathway to a brighter future, allowing students to become the best versions of themselves. However, the growing demand for bursary places highlights the urgent need for continued support. Each year, RGS receives applications from exceptional students who face financial hardships, yet limited funds mean some deserving applicants cannot be supported.

The collective support of the community is vital to ensure no talented student is held back by financial constraints. RGS aims to be a beacon of how education can break down barriers, ignite dreams, and transform lives. This initiative, rooted in a legacy of excellence, reflects the school's commitment to fostering a more inclusive and promising future.

By supporting the Bursary Campaign, we can ensure that the brightest minds, regardless of their financial circumstances, embark on a journey of education, empowerment, and boundless possibilities. Together, we can make dreams come true and shape a better tomorrow for all.



## RGS BURSARIES

RGS is an independent, fee-paying school, yet we have a long history of providing a large number of fee-assisted places. RGS is passionately committed to ensuring access to its fast-paced, challenging academic curriculum for students from the widest possible range of backgrounds. We believe that the first-class education that our students receive can be transformational to their lives.

*“From the Penrith generation of 1939–1944, to the current day, Old Novocastrians provide valuable support to RGS Bursaries, along with current and former parents and staff, local charitable trusts and North East businesses. We are grateful for every donation which we spend with great care. Please join us.”*

– Nigel McMinn, Governor and  
Chair of RGS Bursary Campaign

By generously contributing to the RGS Bursary campaign, you hold the power to alter the trajectory of a young individual's life. Your benevolence can grant them the invaluable opportunity to benefit from in the RGS experience and realise their fullest potential.

We extend our gratitude for any level of contribution, be it a portion or the entirety of the fees.

Your contributions can take various forms, including one-time donations, standing orders, grants from charitable trusts and foundations, corporate donations, and legacies. Your support truly makes a difference.

If you are inspired to support our mission, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact:  
[development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk)

To give a one off  
donation now  
please scan this  
QR code





*I am so humbled and indebted to those who have invested in my daughter's future. If I can ever repay RGS then I will, and I know Ella will honour our family's gratitude by making an indelible mark on the world."*

– Sarah Bannister, RGS parent (2019–2021)

*"Without the bursary campaign we could have never given our son the opportunity to enter the new world in which he's found himself in. Receiving the letter to say he'd been selected felt like a lottery win to us and has continued to feel this way throughout his journey."*

*"Sometimes I don't think bursary donors know and appreciate just how much their kindness has changed somebody's path and somebody's life. I wouldn't have had any of the opportunities I've had in the past few years if it hadn't been for the RGS. If I am ever in the fortunate position to do so myself, I will donate to the bursary fund. I want to give back because there are so many children in the North East who are brilliant at what they do, and they should have as much chance to succeed as anyone else. There's so many doors waiting to be unlocked, and so many big dreams to be fulfilled, and RGS bursary donors are key to that."*

– Lucy Conroy (2019–2021)



*"The kindness and immense generosity of the donors whom I have never met are particularly inspiring to me, and I always endeavour to pass on this kindness to others and continue their generosity. I will be forever grateful to all those involved with the RGS Bursary Campaign and for the immeasurable help they have given me."*

– Christina Chui (2007–2018)



*"I am extremely fortunate to have been accepted here, and appreciate not just the academic facilities provided to me, but the social and introspective skills that I have developed."*

*"I think about you, the donors I never thought I would ever meet, who made the ultimate act of kindness to help me, a stranger to you. Your generosity completely changed the trajectory of my life and it's indescribable the impact the RGS has had on all the options and opportunities that I would not have otherwise had. But there are many more kids just like me, with the same ability and a fire for knowledge. So please keep doing what you are doing. You are investing in dreams, aspirations and the promise of a brighter future."*

– Charlie Potts (2022–2024)



*I am so grateful to all of you who support the RGS Bursary Campaign, as I really believe that my time at RGS has changed my life and set me on the lifepath I am on."*

– Katy Silverman (2006–2008)



*"We are 100% sure that without achieving the bursary, my daughters school life and her future would not be so promising and exciting. The RGS is a wonderful school and we are extremely proud and grateful for everything it has given, and continues to give."*







# RGS PARTNERSHIPS

**R**GS Partnerships is a collaboration between RGS and local state schools to share teaching and learning opportunities across the North East. The initiative provides workshops, mentoring, and teacher training, alongside access to RGS facilities, resources and extracurricular activities, particularly to children in disadvantaged areas.

We know that cross-sector work can be transformational, but only when rooted in mutual respect and humility.

At the Royal Grammar School we are showing that when independent schools invest their charitable relief in genuinely two-way partnerships with local schools, the results can be truly transformational. We are proud of our broad programme of impactful activities, which was recognised in the accolade of Independent School of the Year award for Educational Partnerships in Autumn 2023.

In the last academic year, our partnerships programme reached children from over 100 local schools, with roughly half primary and half secondary. We have built a sustainable scheme of 50+ activities from STEM to Sport, reaching over 10,000 young people each year, often from the areas of greatest disadvantage in a city with pockets of 40% child poverty. The key to growing this work has been a genuine spirit of co-creation: it is very much a conscious decision to replace the word 'outreach' (with its connotations of patronage), to 'partnerships', providing a better description of our collaborative approach.

Historically, partnership work has drawn on the goodwill of individual staff and spare capacity in the independent sector: this approach tended to result in projects that lacked longitudinal impact. We have developed a model that is both sustainable and scalable by bringing together local business and charitable foundations to pool resources towards common local goals. This spirit of co-missioning has allowed us to build a collaborative model supporting a team of STEM teachers across Maths, Physics, Robotics and Computing. These teachers deliver and facilitate a range of projects alongside local teachers, schools and organisations.

In 2024-25, we are excited to bring this model to Rugby, thanks to the support and vision of England Rugby, who are part-funding a new community role, working partly in RGS and partly in local schools.

Independent schools can play an important role in a thriving school eco-system. For a school like RGS Newcastle, in its 500th anniversary year, there is a real sense of custodianship among governors towards the broader educational benefit of the school. They tend to think in decades and centuries, rather than electoral cycles.

In the current climate of educational crises around recruitment, retention, attendance, mental health and much more, we must move forward in a spirit of partnership and collaboration if we are to unlock the infinite potential of our young people.

We welcome discussions with individuals, organisations, trusts and foundations interested in collaborating with us to expand our partnerships and enhance our lasting impact on the region.

As one governor put it to me recently: "It takes a city to educate its children".

We'd love to talk. Contact us at [development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk)

To give a one off donation now please scan this QR code





*As Computing lead of St Michael's, I would love to take this opportunity to embed Lego Education into St Michael's to give my pupils more experience of programming and robotics as I have been inspired by what you have done at RGS."*

– St Michael's, Elswick

*We've taken part in RGS swimming galas for two years in a row and participated in the Big Sing event at St James' Park. These events have provided great experiences for our pupils."*

– Waverley Primary School



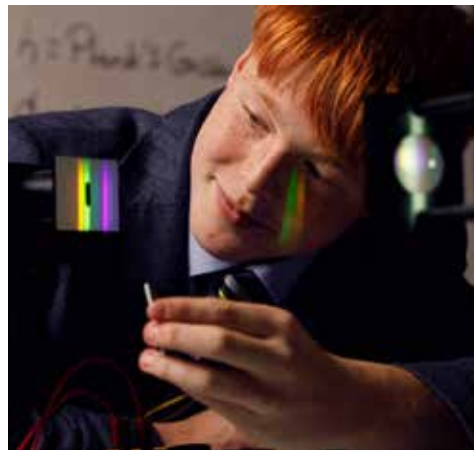
*The expertise and subject knowledge we gain, especially in computer science, is invaluable. It helps us prepare the children for secondary school and ensures they have the necessary skills. These events provide opportunities that might inspire them and break down misconceptions about different schools and subjects."*

– Westall Primary School



*Thank you so much for having us. I know that our Year 4s have absolutely loved coming to RGS for their swimming lessons this term - the progress they have made is phenomenal."*

– Lemington Riverside Primary School



**RGS**  
**SCHOOL**

**R**GS's co-educational school educates some 1,350 students, over 350 of whom are in the Sixth Form, one of the largest in the independent sector. The school has educated over 10,000 Old Novocastrians, who have gone out to make a positive impact on the world, many shaping the economic, cultural and societal landscape of the North East. Our work and credibility to continue RGS Bursaries and RGS Partnerships relies on us continuing to deliver an exemplar education in our school, and through RGS Gives, supports can make an indelible impact on current and future students, which in turns strengthen our platform from which we build impact beyond the gates of Eskdale Terrace.

Supporters have, can and do make a difference from funding small equipment to large scale capital projects, as well as additional opportunities and experiences for our students. Support can take many forms, from charitable gifts through to sponsorship arrangements with mutual benefit to the donor. Our ambition for projects in RGS School is limitless, so please do get in touch if you would like to direct your support to the School.



# SOCIAL IMPACT


As RGS enters its Quincentenary in 2025, the school's ambition of social impact remains front and centre to everything we do. We believe in the infinite potential of our region and are driven to raise the attainment of young people from across the North East.


We aim to inspire and nurture young people, empowering them to shape their own futures and contribute positively to society.


We aim to reach young people of the north, regardless of background and circumstance: from Carlisle to Stockton-on-Tees, to Berwick-upon-Tweed and back to our heartland in the city of Newcastle.

We work alongside teachers from all institutions interested in curriculum innovation, collegiality and sharing methodologies; and any parent wanting to explore a range of exciting opportunities for their children. We collaborate with further and higher education, and businesses wishing to invest in the education and training of young people in this region.

## RGS BURSARIES

 **90**  
students at RGS attended on transformational means-tested RGS Bursary.

 **93.78%**  
average bursary awarded, focussing our finite funds where we can make the most difference.

 **484**  
bursary students supported since RGS Bursaries were established in 2002.

 **193**  
donors gifted an incredible £1.2m in the year.

## RGS PARTNERSHIPS


 **105**  
different schools across the region were involved in RGS Partnerships activities.

 **Over 500**  
teachers received training or collaborated on curriculum development.

 **Over 10,000**  
individual students in local state schools benefitted from RGS partnership activities.

 **Over 50**  
RGS Partnerships projects have taken place across Maths, Physics, Engineering, Robotics, Computer Science, Sport, Languages, Classics, Debating, UCAS Mentoring and much more.

## RGS SCHOOL

 **1,323**  
students attended RGS, which would have otherwise cost the taxpayer an annual c£10m if educated in the state system.

 **Over 400**  
RGS students regularly volunteered, with a total of 4,000 hours in our local community.

 **17**  
members of staff are Governors at local schools and 2 are Director/Trustee positions.

 **42**  
local community groups and organisations accessed RGS buildings and facilities for their events and activities.





RGS

If you are inspired to support RGS Bursaries,  
RGS Partnerships or the school itself, or if you know  
of any bursary candidates or potential partners we would  
love to hear from you, please do get in touch:

[development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk)

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