BURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Ripple Effect

The Transformative Impact of BGS Bursaries

Transformational Impact

For over 450 years, Bury Grammar School has stood proudly at the heart of the Bury community, remaining true to our founding ethos of being an open and inclusive school, which welcomes bright, local children regardless of means. The BGS Bursary Fund currently provides 1 in 8 pupils in our senior schools with means-tested bursary support, with the average fee support being a transformational 81%, and 46% of bursary recipients receiving 100% fee support.

Our bursary recipients are often amongst our highest achievers and go on to achieve some incredible outcomes at A Level and beyond. Many of our bursary recipients are now making their mark in the world of work, including our former School Captain, Laraib, who last year achieved his life-long dream of graduating from medical school and is now working as a junior doctor in the NHS. You can read more about his inspirational story on page 12.

But it is not only the individual recipients who benefit from a BGS Bursary. We recognise that when a child is awarded a bursary, the positive effects "ripple out" as they become proud ambassadors for social mobility, raising aspirations within their own families and local communities. In addition, many go on to make positive contributions to wider society by working in areas as diverse as the NHS, the Civil Service, law, engineering and commerce.

Welcoming more bursary recipients means that the local community of Bury is more accurately reflected in our pupil body, and we understand that a more socially and economically diverse cohort benefits everyone, as pupils learn from each other's unique life experiences and are better prepared for life after BGS. It is this blend of pupils from different backgrounds that makes our school so special.

Mrs Jo Anderson

Principal



Every child deserves the chance to fulfil their potential and achieve the best educational outcomes possible, whatever their background and whatever their path.

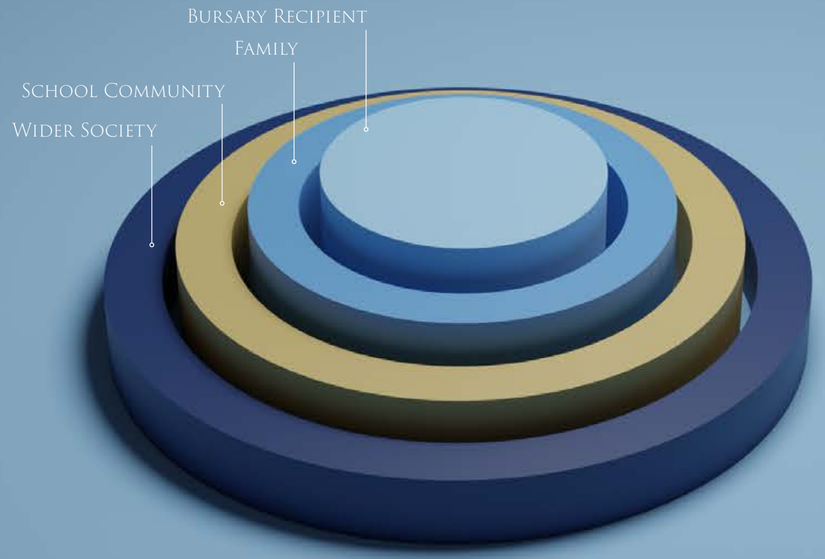
Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation*

*Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation is a highly respected social mobility charity, widening access to life changing opportunities at the UK's leading independent schools.

The Ripple Effect

We know that a bursary benefits not only the individual recipient: the positive effects are also felt by their families and the whole school community, and many recipients go on to make a significant difference contributing to our wider society.

The benefits of a BGS Bursary are felt much more widely than simply by those they are awarded to.



Our Guiding Principles

Founders' Aims

To educate children from the local area irrespective of their family income.

Altruism

'Giving back' is a vital part of the culture at BGS.

Duty

A school at the heart of Bury both geographically and in practice.

Four Pillars of Social Impact at BGS

Bursaries | Partnerships | Outreach | Local Economy

Our Bursary Strategy forms one of the four Pillars of Social Impact at BGS. We are very proud of our growing number of partnerships with local schools, businesses, charities, organisations and cultural groups. We are embedding the importance of social impact into our culture and strategic plans, communicating this to our community and staying true to our Founders' vision whilst looking ahead to future possibilities.

Education is a crucial tool for improving social mobility in our community. Bursaries remove barriers which can change the pathway of a whole family. The BGS Bursary Scheme plays a vital role in ensuring all children in Bury have the potential to receive a top quality education.

Jennifer, Previous BGS Bursary Recipient

I AM VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT LEARNING AND I LOVE TO BE CHALLENGED. I AM GRATEFUL AND FEEL VERY FORTUNATE TO BE RECEIVING A BURSARY - I CANNOT WAIT TO START AT BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER!

BGS Bursary Recipient

Jennifer's Story

Jennifer received a bursary to attend BGS. After going to university, then completing a Master's Degree and PhD in Antarctic Marine Geology, she is now working on climate change and international relations at the British High Commission in Wellington, New Zealand.

"Attending BGS provided the opportunity to stretch myself and gave me the space to learn more about who I was and who I wanted to be. The bursary meant a huge amount to my family, who otherwise would not have been able to give me the type of education that matched my curiosity and drive.

I believe that attending BGS gave me the best possible opportunity to control my own destiny. High expectations of success encouraged me to make the most of the privilege of receiving a first-rate education, and I was fortunate to do well, receiving class prizes and good exam results. Passionate teachers and small class sizes provided scope to ask deeper questions, to dig into topics I enjoyed, and to learn beyond the curriculum. The friendly support and expertise of my teachers were instrumental in me finding a love of science and geography and moving from arts GCSEs to scientific A Levels.

> The pastoral support and high expectations of behaviour provided a safe and supportive environment in which to learn and develop during often tricky teenage years.

I was hesitant about going to university, but discovered a passion for glacial geology and climate science at Durham University, which led to me pursuing a Master's and PhD in Antarctic Marine Geology. I joined the Civil Service in 2017 and I have had amazing experiences, such as supporting world leaders during COP26, leading a training programme for UK police, and helping people return to the UK during crises overseas. I recently moved to the British High Commission in Wellington, where I work on climate change and the UK's relationship with New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries. An education at BGS can change so much for a family and give a child the opportunity to reach their full potential. I am hugely grateful to all those who contributed towards my education and gave me the chance to choose a career I am so passionate about."

Jennifer
Former Bursary Recipient

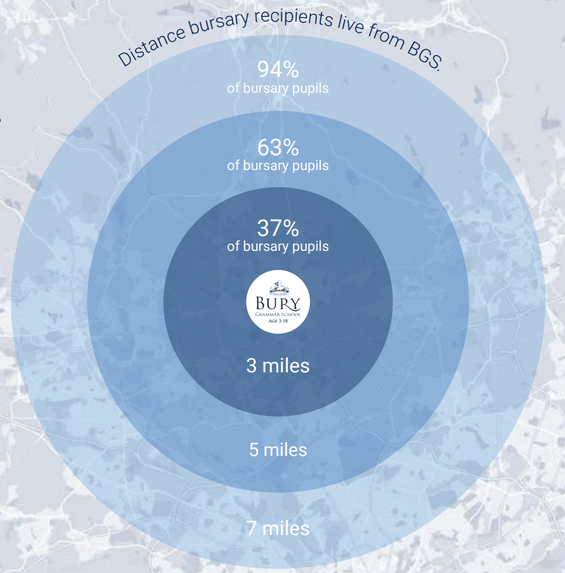


Supporting Local Children

107 children in our senior schools currently receive bursary support, equating to **1 in 8** pupils.

67 of these recipients have transformational bursaries, meaning they receive **more than 80%** fee support.

49 pupils have **100%** bursaries. At **46%** of bursary recipients this is well above the national average within UK independent schools of **14.6%***



*ISC Census and Annual Report, 2022

How we support

We are so grateful to our network of incredibly generous donors, who already support our ambitious aims to make a BGS education a reality for as many deserving local children as possible.



In addition to raising funds, BGS has also contributed over £1.3 million of its income to bursaries in the last three years.

Not only do we provide financial support to our bursary recipients, they also benefit from outstanding pastoral care. Our School is a fun, happy and nurturing one, and our system of pastoral care ensures that we provide a safe, tolerant, and supportive environment, which allows students to reach their potential in every area of life.

I believe that the education and social environment that the School provides, alongside good support from parents, are excellent preparation for making the most of life's opportunities.

Anonymous Bursary Sponsor
Old Boy

WHAT DO OUR RECIPIENTS ACHIEVE?

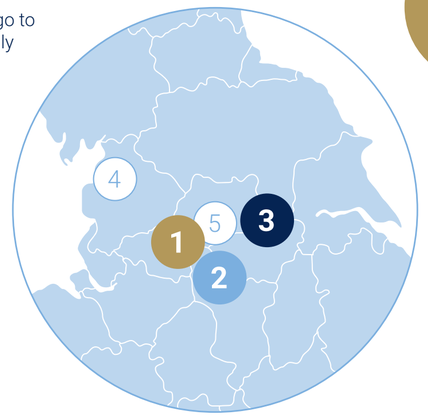
Our bursary recipients are often amongst our highest achievers and go on to succeed with some incredible outcomes at A Level and beyond.

Between 2011 and 2021, 224 bursary recipients left BGS and are now alumni studying at top universities or are in the early stages of their careers.

Bursary recipients who go to university overwhelmingly choose to study in the North, with the **top five** destinations being:

1. University of Manchester
2. University of Sheffield
3. University of York
4. University of Lancaster
5. University of Leeds

as well as other top institutions including the Universities of Liverpool, Birmingham, Durham, Oxford and Cambridge.



4% went straight into work or an apprenticeship

91% went to university

Top 5
subjects studied at university

1. Business, Accounting & Finance
2. Medicine
3. Engineering
4. Law
5. Psychology

Of those recipients who went straight into work or an apprenticeship, many are now making their mark working at top organisations around the UK, including:

House of Commons · NHS · Bank of America · Royal Bank of Scotland · Financial Adviser

My experiences in and out of the classroom gave me so much experience to draw on when I entered the world of work. I started working for NatWest as a cashier in the Manchester branch, and I've just celebrated 10 years – having now become an Assistant Director in the bank's Restructuring team. The bursary I received made all of this possible.

Kiefer Heatherington
Former Bursary Recipient



Laraib's Story

Laraib was awarded a bursary to attend BGS. He went on to become School Captain, and has now achieved his dream of working as a doctor in the NHS.

"I was born and raised in North Manchester, in an area called Cheetham Hill. We didn't have much money and my upbringing was vastly different from some of my peers'. I was fortunate enough to receive a bursary midway through my first year at BGS.

I went on to become School Captain, received 8 A*s at GCSE, A*AB at A Level and subsequently attended Manchester Medical School and became a doctor.

> Throughout my school career my mother and I were eternally grateful; the bursary meant that I would have a chance at an excellent education which could elevate me and my family from a poor background.

It was a huge responsibility and I believe it pushed me to excel and reach my potential. I became hugely involved in school activities including the Cadets, sports – I was Captain of both the football and athletics teams – and School Council. I also had the honour of becoming the first British-Asian School Captain under Headmaster Richard Marshall, a man who inspired me greatly, along with many others at the School.

My experiences at BGS allowed me to develop my skills and achieve excellent A-Levels. The interpersonal skills allowed me to obtain a place at medical school and the self-belief that was instilled in me allowed me to pass my degree with Distinction in the final examinations. I created a mental health organization, called Seasons, whilst at university, became the President of the largest Medical Society in Europe and, most importantly, achieved my dream of becoming a doctor. Most of these things, I sincerely believe, would not have been possible without the bursary scheme and the countless donors who gave their hard-earned money for my education.

I sincerely hope that the BGS Bursary Fund continues strongly and allows for young children to aspire to achievements they hadn't believed possible before."

Dr Laraib Gul Khan
Former Bursary Recipient



We are extremely grateful for this bursary because it has allowed our son to explore and concentrate on an excellent education. This generosity and kindness has made a difference in his life and ours.

Parents of a current Bursary Recipient

I support the Bursary Fund because I believe that academically bright children, irrespective of their circumstances, should be able to enjoy the same opportunities I was lucky to have. A bursary gives a young person a chance to believe in themselves, to reach their full potential.

Suzanne Gauge
Bursary Sponsor, Old Girl, Governor, Parent

Playing our Part in Social Mobility

> Today in the UK, opportunities to succeed are still largely based on what your parents did. You are still 60% more likely to be in a professional job if you were from a privileged background rather than a working class background.
>
> Social Mobility Commission, 2021

At Bury Grammar School, we feel passionately that education is the key to unlocking opportunity. We are proud to play our part supporting our bursary recipients in realising their own potential and achieving success, recognizing the role this plays in a wider movement to improve social mobility within the UK.

Our hope and our expectation are that our bursary recipients will act as role models and inspire change within the School and local communities, and that they will later go on to roles and careers in which they can be in a position to further advocate for positive change within society.

Raising Aspirations
Promoting Inclusion
Changing Lives





A Bursary Recipient's Story

This former student was awarded a bursary to attend BGS. She is now studying Engineering at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and is looking forward to a career in STEM.

"Receiving a BGS Bursary has both directly and indirectly created a plethora of opportunities for me that aren't just financial. My parents immigrated to this country from Nigeria with me as a baby for the sake of creating more opportunities for me and my three younger siblings, and the bursary definitely propagated that.

At BGS I was able to join the netball team and the choir. I also took on roles of responsibility as a Head of Sixth Form prefect and School Council member, and by volunteering at Open Days and Parents' Evenings. Of course, it was quite difficult to balance all these things with my academics, and I wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of my teachers, who pushed me to be the best I could be and provided so much help and support, both emotionally and academically.

> BGS taught me the importance of discipline, organisation, communication and independence. Now that I am at St Catharine's College, Cambridge doing Engineering, these skills have been so valuable when it comes to doing coursework, preparing for deadlines and even non-university related activities.

> Hopefully, I will carry these experiences out into the wider world where I hope to be working as a Civil Engineer after I graduate. I also hope to do some volunteering abroad in one of the summers before I start my professional career in STEM.

From personal experience, the BGS Bursary Fund has contributed to so much in my life and could do the same for so many other talented students out there. There will always be children who need and deserve freedom like this to really fulfil their potential. The School's provision of a bursary is an amazing gift that creates inspirational stories and gives more students an environment in which they can work to the best of their ability. It is a re-investment into society and the community of the School which influences and inspires children to work harder and be better people. Contributing to this fund provides more opportunities for social mobility which is so vital for creating a more tolerant and diverse society. It is necessary to be able to communicate with and understand different types of people and cultures. The BGS Bursary Fund will build a strong foundation for open-minded, growing children who aspire to make the most of the opportunities created for them."

Former Bursary Recipient

What's Next?
The Future is Bright!

Our governors are committed to making the increased provision of bursaries a strategic priority, strengthening the current programme and widening access further still. Our aim is to make a BGS education a reality, regardless of means, for pupils who would most benefit, helping them to achieve their true potential, as well as contributing to the life of the School and going on to make a positive difference in society throughout their lives.

Will you help us to change more lives by supporting the BGS Bursary Fund today?

I am so excited to embark on a new adventure and develop my thirst for knowledge even further, and I believe Bury Grammar School will provide me with amazing opportunities that I wouldn't receive at another high school.

BGS Bursary Recipient



It is an honour and a privilege that a boy from a working-class family will be able to access the immense opportunity that Bury Grammar School provides. I truly believe this is the place where my son belongs and with that, he will be able to work towards his passion of becoming a surgeon.

Parent of Bursary Recipient starting at BGS this September

How Can I Help?

There are many ways to give to the BGS Bursary Fund, including:

Sponsoring a Pupil

Sponsoring a pupil with at least 50% of their fees creates a truly life-changing opportunity for a child who would thrive at BGS.

Leaving a Gift in Your Will

Remembering the BGS Bursary Fund in your Will means you will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Making a One-Off Gift

All gifts to the BGS Bursary Fund, however large or small, are gratefully received and collectively make a huge impact.

Making a Regular Gift

Making a regular gift means we are able to plan for the future and support more pupils.

If you would like any more information about supporting the Bursary Fund in any way, please contact the Development Team by emailing **supportus@burygrammar.com** or calling **0161 764 1733.**

Bursaries allow those individuals from a widening participation background to become socially mobile. It allows for those from disadvantaged backgrounds to see that a better future is possible, obtain that future and help themselves and their families along the way.

Dr Laraib Gul Khan, Former Bursary Recipient

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