



WHY I GIVE

PETER S WALKER

A REMARKABLE JOURNEY FROM RGS TO PIONEERING ORTHOPAEDICS, AND HIS ENDURING LEGACY

In July 2023, **Peter S Walker** (52-60) returned to the RGS with his wife Wuliang, a 'fleeting' 63 years after he departed the gates of Eskdale Terrace bound for Cambridge.

Peter and Wuliang are already honoured as 'Fellows of the RGS', in recognition of their support of the RGS Bursary Campaign. But the purpose of this visit was to view the progress of their more recent support, funding essential repairs and maintenance to the oldest – and most cherished – parts of our building.

Like **Sir Arthur Munro Sutherland** (ON 1878-1883) Peter and Wuliang have invested in the fabric of our almost 120 year old building, enabling us to refurbish the original lockers, wooden sash windows and essential pointing and stone masonry. We are indebted to these great benefactors, who have made their indelible mark on RGS and our future generations of students.

In his own words, here is Peter's story.

My memories of RGS include the dedication and skill of the teachers, the opportunities to participate in a wide range of sports and special interests, the guarantee of being able to swim, the enduring friendships that were formed, and the school buildings themselves. From an academic point of view, the classes that were the most influential to me were mathematics under **WB Macro** (Staff 1936-62), and Engineering Drawing under **Colin 'Claude' Dales** (Staff 1950-86); while appreciating extra English tuition from **MG Robinson** (Staff 1934-72), art from **C Marfitt-Smith** (Staff 1932-71), and sport from **Bill Elliott** (Staff 1952-88). Staying for an extra term in the third year of the sixth form enabled me to sit the Cambridge exams, from which I gained a place at Gonville and Caius College to study Mechanical Sciences, a broad-based engineering syllabus.

Before 'going up' to Cambridge in 1960, I spent several months in engineering factories at the Team Valley Trading Estate, becoming quite expert at machining, while appreciating being dressed in a boiler suit. Following Cambridge, for three years I was a trainee at Dunlop on the Coast Road in Newcastle and found that I had some aptitude for inventing devices and formulating research projects. While at a conference, I was informed about a PhD