

Transformational Bursary Fund

Empowering girls to thrive



Mayfield
Foundation



“I have begun
the work; others
will bring it to
perfection.”

Cornelia Connelly, Founder

An invitation to change lives

“Actions Not Words”

Our motto lies at the heart of Mayfield. It is the bedrock of our Foundation's work, shaping not only how we educate, but how we act. Transformational bursaries ensure that a Mayfield education is not defined by financial circumstance, but by talent, potential and character. For many remarkable girls, the opportunity to study here would simply not exist without the generosity of others.

At Mayfield we believe deeply in the power of action over words; of living our values through opportunity and service. Every transformational bursary awarded is more than financial assistance; it is a life-changing act of belief in a young woman's future.

This commitment reflects the vision of our pioneering founder, Cornelia Connelly. She believed that education should be both

transformative and accessible, nurturing academic excellence while equipping young women with the confidence, compassion and practical skills to contribute meaningfully to society. Her conviction that education can change lives continues to guide us today.

With the support of our community, we can open the doors of Mayfield to young girls who might otherwise never imagine themselves here. In doing so, we do more than transform individual lives; we enrich our entire school community and help shape a generation of knowledgeable, confident and socially aware women ready to make a difference in the world.

Your support makes this possible. By engaging with our fundraising campaign, you will change lives forever.



Deborah Bligh, Headmistress



Inspiring learning and opening access to the very best Mayfield has to offer



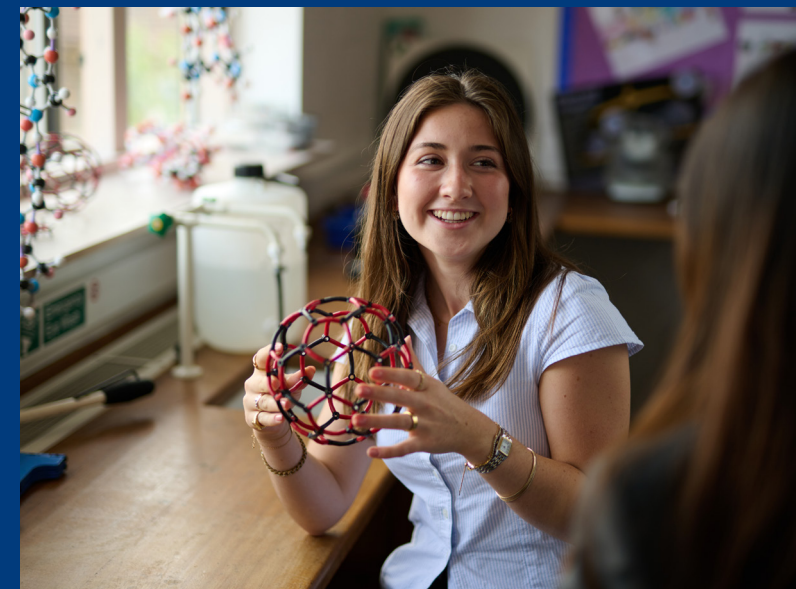
At Mayfield, we proudly embrace our founder, Cornelia Connelly's, vision of educating the whole person – intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. Our school is a vibrant community where young women embark on an exhilarating journey of self-discovery, academic achievement and personal growth.

Welcoming girls of all faiths and backgrounds, our approach is rooted in Catholic values, fostering a strong sense of community and moral purpose. We are not just training students to sit exams; we are

equipping them with the curiosity, courage and compassion to meet the needs of the age and shape the world around them.

As we plan how best to weave this ethos into our development as a school, we invite you to be part of a philanthropic community, building upon Cornelia's pioneering fundraising work. Together, we can honour and develop the foundations upon which Mayfield School was established, ensuring Cornelia's legacy continues and enabling future generations to turn faith and conviction into meaningful action.

With your support, we can expand our transformational bursary programme so that more girls benefit from all that we offer. This way, we will build inspiration and possibility into even more young lives.



Our vision



Cornelia's pioneering spirit and unshakeable faith underpinned her extraordinary commitment to girls' education, at a time when few were prepared to chart that course. Her courage, integrity and resilience are still an integral part of Mayfield's identity.

Our vision is wholly Cornelian.

It recognises that to take learning to another level of excellence, we need to invite our friends and partners to invest in the life of the school. Only with the support of the wider school community – parents past and present, Old Cornelians, grant-funders and other benefactors – can we prepare our pupils to make a positive contribution in a rapidly changing world.

Philanthropy is not new to Mayfield.

It is 180 years since Cornelia Connelly arrived in Derby and founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. In 1863, she brought a small group of girls from the Holy Child School at St Leonards-on-Sea to picnic among the ruins of the Old Palace at Mayfield.

The visit inspired a vision for the site's educational potential and later that year Louisa Caton, Dowager Duchess of Leeds purchased and donated the Old Palace to Cornelia's religious order. What followed was a fundraising programme of restoration and development transforming the site into the School we know and love today.



Through a sustainable programme of philanthropic investment, our goal over the next ten years is to support every girl's path to fulfilment through funding Sixth Form transformational bursaries that will lead to individual and collective enrichment.

Our bursary ambitions

Sustaining an aspirational environment for learning requires us to nurture a community that thrives on diversity. At Mayfield, we have always valued the positive way bursaries help us to achieve this. A bursary place not only transforms the life of an individual girl, but it has the power to positively impact the whole school community, ensuring we remain socially and culturally inclusive.

Transformational bursaries offer financial assistance of 80%–110%; yet they are far more than just financial support – they represent a powerful act of philanthropy, turning potential into real opportunity for each student. With your help,

the doors to a Mayfield education can be opened for a young girl whose talent, determination and promise might otherwise go unrealised. Your support brings hope for a young girl's future, laying the foundation for a lifetime of confidence, leadership and meaningful contribution.

Crucially your impact extends well beyond one individual. The young girls you help to empower enrich the fabric of Mayfield itself, bringing resilience, intellectual curiosity and a breadth of experience that deepen our shared understanding and strengthen our community. Your investment, through our pupils, influences the wider world.



Sharing our Founder's legacy with a new age of Cornelians

Cornelia Connelly was acutely aware of the diversity of interests and abilities inherent in Mayfield girls. Her commitment to putting every student on a joyful path of discovery is at the heart of her legacy and we are dedicated to sharing that message with a new age of Cornelians.

With your philanthropic support, we can continue to educate, nurture souls and spark lifelong passions in our girls. Together, we can empower them to become the next generation of female leaders, scientists, artists, athletes, or their chosen path when it comes to making a difference in the world.

How you can make a difference

Our goal is to increase our Sixth Form transformational bursary places over the next ten years. We have a wonderful opportunity to make bursaries a priority in our development plan, securing even more places for talented girls who might otherwise lack the opportunity to meet their potential.

Every contribution whether large or small, will make a difference. There are many ways to support the school and play a significant role in transforming the lives of current and future generations of Mayfield pupils.

**Our ambition is to raise
£1.5 million per annum in cash,
pledges and legacy gifts.**



Social and financial returns on investment

In addition to the school receiving an additional 25p for every £1 donated from UK Taxpayers via Gift Aid, donors are eligible for income tax relief as outlined here.

In principle as a UK taxpayer in the 45% tax bracket, if you donate £25,000, Mayfield School will receive £31,250 and your net contribution will be £17,187.

If you would like to discuss the benefits of making a tax-efficient gift or legacy, or for further information about how you can support Mayfield School and transform young girls’ lives, please contact:

Amba Shirfield
Director of Development
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Based on 40% tax rate

Net value of gift	Gross value of gift (inc. Gift Aid)	Donor tax relief (40% tax rate)	Actual cost of gift (to the donor) tax relief (40% tax rate)
£1,000	£1,250	£250	£750
£5,000	£6,250	£1,250	£3,750
£25,000	£31,250	£6,250	£18,750
£250,000	£312,500	£62,500	£187,500
£1,000,000	£1,250,000	£250,000	£750,000

Based on 45% tax rate

Net value of gift	Gross value of gift (inc. Gift Aid)	Donor tax relief (45% tax rate)	Actual cost of gift (to the donor) tax relief (45% tax rate)
£1,000	£1,250	£313	£687
£5,000	£6,250	£1,563	£3,437
£25,000	£31,250	£7,813	£17,187
£250,000	£312,500	£78,125	£171,875
£1,000,000	£1,250,000	£312,500	£687,500



Transformational bursary recipients

“Being awarded the Transformational Bursary has enabled me to make the most of everything Mayfield offers. It has allowed me to feel truly at home here and to immerse myself fully in school life, taking on new challenges and contributing meaningfully to the community. One of the most memorable experiences was taking part in the Actions Not Words programme in Year 12. Working with the Year 1 and 2 pupils at the local primary school taught me so much about patience, care and responsibility. Giving back alongside my peers strengthened my appreciation for service and connection.

Stepping into the role of prefect has been another defining moment. It has helped me develop my leadership skills, support others, and demonstrate real strength in representing the school. The bursary ensured I could continue my journey at Mayfield and pursue opportunities with assurance and ambition. Knowing the school believes in me has encouraged me to aim high, push myself academically, and embrace roles that allow me to contribute to the wider community.”

Current Year 13 student

Janie Mercer

Current Year 9 student



“Receiving a bursary to come to Mayfield School has incredibly benefitted my academic journey and the opportunities that I have had throughout my time here. The education I have received has been exceptional, and with smaller classes, I have the attention I need, whether I am falling behind or excelling in lessons. Teachers encourage us to work hard and do the best we can to strive. Universities like Oxford and Cambridge suddenly seem like something I could genuinely aspire to if I try hard enough.

When I was younger, I attended Mayfield Primary School, which is just opposite Mayfield School. Every day as I walked to school I would look across at Mayfield School and wonder what it would be like to go there, to go to such a high-achieving school with so many opportunities to flourish. It seemed like such an impressive place, and I never thought that I would be able to attend this school. The thought that I used to genuinely aspire to come here motivates me to do my very best inside and outside of the classroom and make the most of everything that this school offers.

We often talk about our future ambitions and dreams in our Personal Development lessons. Hearing people talk about what they would like to be when they grow up and their potential career choices has made me realise all of the doors that this school opens and all of the career paths that I could go down. Mayfield has inspired me to build upon a future that a younger me never would have even dreamed of.

Another big part of my Mayfield journey has been a discovery of my love for creative and performing arts. I have always enjoyed creative arts like drawing, painting and graphic design, and I am now being encouraged to delve deeper into those interests and perhaps use them to build on my future. Mayfield has helped develop my confidence by building friendships with other cast members and taking the courage to perform in front of others.

I think the best part of being at Mayfield is the sense of community within the school. Every student is warm, welcoming and incredibly supportive. The teachers genuinely care about the wellbeing of each and every girl in this school, helping every girl reach their potential. Everyone is encouraged to grow academically, but also in confidence and character.

Most of all, Mayfield has helped me to open up so many possibilities. The bursary that enabled me to attend this school has not only given me an amazing education, but also a sense of belonging, confidence, character and strong friendships which are bound to last. It has enabled me to imagine a future that was once out of reach, and when I think back to my younger self looking up at Mayfield and aspiring to go there, I suddenly feel incredibly lucky that I now get to be a part of it.”

Lucia Svecova

Class of 2017

"In 2015, I was lucky enough to win a place at Mayfield School Sixth Form with a full bursary, and this has completely changed my life! Originally from Slovakia from a low-household-income background, I had always wanted to study, and study in a community which truly valued education, but there were limited opportunities at home, since I could not even consider any private education. However, through the generosity of Mayfield, I suddenly found myself in a school full of passion for education, full of music and performing arts, full of spirituality – and I felt a unique sense of belonging. I was realising every day of my time at Mayfield how incredible it was that this was all made possible for me despite where I came from and how much money I had, and to this day I am immensely grateful for it. Thanks to the continuing support of the school and all the wonderful teachers there, I finished my A-Levels and proceeded to study in places that I had only dreamt about before. I ended up specialising in orchestral conducting, inspired by Mayfield alumni such as Alondra de la Parra, and I have also qualified as a teacher, wanting to give some of that support back to younger generations. However, wherever else I have gone and whatever else I have achieved since Mayfield, I always remember that all of it has only been possible thanks to Mayfield and the generosity of the bursary I had received there."



Catherine Michie

Class of 1991

"My mother died when I was two. It was important to her that we all went to good Catholic schools, but my father was unable to do this. After she died, we lived in a caravan and had no money.

My primary school headmaster approached Mayfield and before I knew it, I had been given a 100% bursary. I had the happiest seven years of my life; Mayfield was my extended family. I went on to go to university and obtained a Psychology degree. My career as an event organiser has taken me all over the world and introduced me to many people. Without this transformational bursary support, my life would have been very different."



Ready to make a difference?

Contact Amba to discuss tax-efficient giving and legacy opportunities that empower the next generation of girls.

Amba Shirfield

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