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FOUNDATION
TRANSFORMATIVE
OPPORTUNITIES
The Saunders Foundation Awards
Offering young people the opportunity
to flourish through a Dean Close education

TRANSFORMING LIVES

The Saunders Foundation Awards at Dean Close School

The **Saunders Foundation Awards** offer young people the chance to flourish through a Dean Close education - an opportunity that might not otherwise have been affordable. These awards are aimed at supporting children who come from families that contribute to the rural economy and will embrace opportunities at Dean Close, inspire others and contribute fully to school life.



Mr Saunders (Court, Class of 1959) pictured with his dog.

These transformative awards will give a talented young person an education that nurtures and develops character, confidence and ambition.

Distinctly Dean Close

What Dean Close Offers

- **A friendly, welcoming community** where every child is known, valued, and supported.
- **Excellent pastoral care**, shaped by Christian values and a deep commitment to each individual.
- **Co-education for ages 2–18**, all on one beautiful 50-acre site with space to grow and thrive.
- **Top-quality facilities** for learning, sport, the arts, and outdoor adventures.
- **Creative, forward-thinking education**, including our award-winning Skills Lab and 'Five Time' Saturday programme.
- **Skills for life**, built around our 5Cs: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, compassion and communication.
- **A Dean Close experience** that builds confidence, strong character, and a clear sense of purpose.



A Gift with Purpose

Thanks to the generosity of a former Dean Close pupil, ***The Saunders Foundation Awards*** offer up to 100% support with school fees. They are open to families with proven financial need, who contribute to the rural economy and live within 50 miles of Cheltenham.

Awards may be granted at various stages, starting as early as Year 7.

What we look for in Award Recipients:

- **A real passion to make the most of the broad education Dean Close offers;**
- **Good academic ability and a keen interest in learning;**
- **Talents in an area of school life;**
- **Strong character and a positive, "can-do" spirit;**
- **A willingness to contribute to school life;**
- **The personal qualities to succeed in life beyond school.**

Apply by **20th October 2026**

POSITIVE IMPACT



"As an eleven year old boy, I was awarded a bursary. So I left my primary school in Manchester's Rusholme for a senior school education at Monkton Combe. Looking back now, I can see that before my own bursary I had a limited palette. Then, with all the opportunities on offer at my new school, life became Technicolor. As a Headmaster, I can relate to pupils going through this transformational experience and know first-hand the impact it can have. I also greatly value the greater social diversity that bursaries bring, because I believe the ability to empathise is one of the key skills we must give all our pupils."

Mr Bradley Salisbury ~ Former Head of Dean Close School

Meet Cai, a recipient of the **Foundation Awards**



"Cai has been a shining example of everything the Foundation Award seeks to recognise. Throughout his time at Dean Close, he has left an indelible mark on both Tower House and the wider school community. A natural leader and role model, Cai has embraced every opportunity with humility, determination and quiet confidence. Whether on the sports field or in daily school life, he has led by example – always the gentleman, always hardworking. It has been a joy to witness the way he has flourished, and there is no doubt that the opportunity afforded to him has been truly transformational – not just for him, but for all those he has inspired along the way."

Mr Yamika Banda ~ Housemaster, Tower House

Hear Cai talk about what the award means to him



SPEAKING FROM THE HEART

Scan here and listen to two recent Foundation pupils, Cherissa and Grace, as they reflect on their experiences at Dean Close with former Head Mr Bradley Salisbury. They share how the opportunity to attend Dean Close has transformed their lives and positively impacted the wider Dean Close community.



HEAR FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

"I realise the great opportunities that some young people have and the reality that this is not the case for many. I feel a strong responsibility to try to give something back to those less fortunate, so they too have the chance to thrive and succeed and create great opportunities for their future. It's about trying to create more equality and inclusion."

Louise McMahon ~ Current Parent

"Between the ages of 10 and 18 I was extremely fortunate to enjoy a Dean Close education thanks to a music scholarship; without this opportunity, I would not have been part of the Dean Close family. Supporting the Dean Close Foundation Awards project allows me to pass on that good fortune, so that someone else might enjoy the breadth of education and support that was so formative for me."

Matthew Shayle ~ Old Decanian

"I believe that education is the greatest gift adults can give to the next generation, and all children deserve this and want it. I teach, coach and tutor, I also govern in schools needing improvement. When the Foundation was established, I decided to donate one hour's work a week to giving a child the opportunity of a Dean Close education, like my own children received, that would not otherwise be possible."

Vanessa Aris ~ Former Staff and Past Parent

How to Apply — Step by Step

1. Email us to arrange an informal conversation:
Foundationawards@deanclose.org.uk

2. Visit Dean Close for a School Tour
Meet a member of our friendly Admissions or Development Team during the Summer , or in September or the start of October.

3. Complete the Foundation Award Application Form
We'll support you with the paperwork - please submit by 20 October 2026.

4. Attend a Taster Day and Entrance Assessment
This will take place before or after October half term to get a feel for school life.

5. Formal Interview - Selection Process
Meet the Head and members of staff in November 2026.

6. The Outcome
We'll let you know by early December 2026 if your child has been awarded.

7. Accept Your Place

Contact Us

For more information or support with your application, please contact us - we're here to help:

Email: Foundationawards@deanclose.org.uk
Phone: 01242 267446

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Registered Charity No: 1086829