



The Abbey

TLC

Transforming Lives Campaign

The 1887 Fund

A Case for Support



Transforming a Student's Future

The Abbey is a remarkable community of learning. It is a place of curiosity, adventurous spirits, and the excitement of discovery. We foster an atmosphere of warmth and support, full of fun and laughter; one that builds the confidence to take risks, explore interests and passions, and engage confidently with the world and with each other.

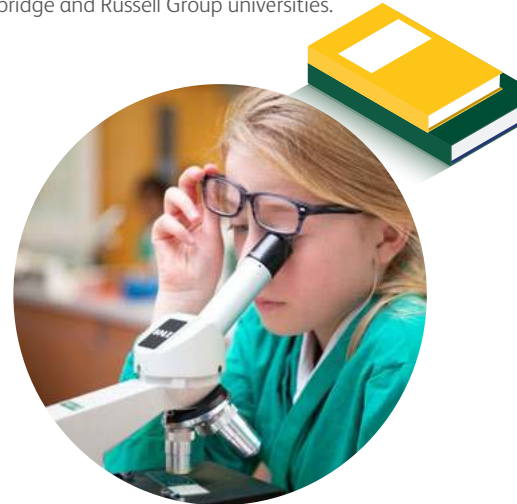
We encourage every student to reach their potential academically, spiritually and personally. Abbey students gain the skills, interests and qualifications they need to create opportunities in their lives and those of others, and the strong moral compass, assurance and purpose to make the most of them.



The Abbey aspires to the highest academic standards while developing confident, well rounded, happy and considerate people who will be equipped to face the global challenges ahead of them with curiosity, courage and creativity. Our bursary programme offers opportunities for students whose families would find it very difficult to come to, or remain at The Abbey. We offer 110 % bursaries to only a few applicants from families who would never otherwise be able to consider the fabulous benefits of an Abbey education. Many of our bursary students go on to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. All leave with the confidence to follow the path right for them.

“I attended The Abbey between the ages of 11 and 18 (2012-2019), and I look back on my time there with immense fondness. I remember being constantly challenged to develop my outlook on the world, something that has aided me to no end since leaving The Abbey. The relationships between staff and students at The Abbey is unique in that learning in the classroom is a two way street, and no idea is disregarded. The learning environment is nurturing and empowering, and I learnt to take pride in both my successes and my struggles; knowing the latter was just a stepping stone. I found the teaching in sixth form to be particularly memorable; as we moved from childhood to adulthood, our teachers adapted seamlessly, giving us what we needed to thrive academically. That doesn’t mean they let our wellbeing slip to the wayside - far from it. Our teachers were intuitive, and knew when to step off the gas or have a quiet word.”

Lily (2019)





The Building blocks - Junior School students in Kensington

A chance to transform a life

What could be more important than investing in the education of children in their formative years, when minds are elastic, hope boundless, creativity unfettered and opportunities unlimited - with some careers at which students may go on to excel not even yet invented?

Our broad offering and a pioneering approach to learning is coupled with an internationally-minded ethos, culminating in the IB Diploma Programme offering in the Sixth Form. We provide extensive opportunities for enrichment and a safe space in which to take intellectual risks and learn with courage and real depth. We are proud of the diversity of our community but want to ensure access to as wide a range of students as possible. We believe that bringing a community of learning together around shared ideals and supporting girls to develop into confident, informed young people who know their voices will be heard is vital for a future in which we face continued global challenges.

Our students' development continues to be our top priority. We support them to create a positive and generous environment in which they learn and grow in so many ways, beginning a life-long process of enquiry, service, discovery and growth, nourished by a caring, compassionate ethos that is central to all we do. Building up our 1887 Fund to offer transformational bursaries to students who would not otherwise be able to afford an Abbey education is vitally important.

80-110%

1887 Fund bursaries are life-changing and are awarded at the 80-110% level.



Investing in the future



Investment in an 1887 Fund bursary is a direct investment in a student's future. Every penny of your investment is spent on the education of the student. We choose students who will flourish in a warm, stimulating and creative environment; students who are able to embrace all the opportunities afforded them at the School whilst benefiting from a first class global independent educational offering. The Abbey is a School where learning goes beyond, where teachers at every opportunity go the extra mile, and where students feel connected to each other and to the world. The Abbey is described by our parents as being 'more than a school'.

Most of our bursary applicants are drawn from state primary schools and The Abbey looks at each applicant's motivation, ability, personality and available family support. Assessing the family's financial means is sensitivity managed with the help of an outside agency. All applicants are assessed and interviewed in just the same way as any prospective student. The family's involvement coupled with the applicant's ability to settle into the new Abbey environment and learning culture are also taken into account. The decision to award an 1887 Fund bursary at the 80 - 110% level rests solely with the Head of The Abbey.

Hope (LIV) - Inaugural 1887 Fund Scholar



"The Abbey has changed my life in many different ways, it has opened the doors to countless opportunities and given me lifelong friendships. I am so grateful to be here and be given such a quality education. I have been challenged academically in a way that enhances my learning, making me the best I can be!"

Junior School Students on the Abbey gardens astro

How much is a 1887 Fund Bursary worth?

Our aspiration is to be able to offer 80 - 110% Fund bursaries to 10 deserving students every year by 2037 (our 150th Anniversary). We have just announced the award of a 1887 Fund bursary at the 110% level to our first student - Hope in LIV.

To fund one student on a full
1887 Fund bursary is

£19,404

To fully fund a 1887 Fund
bursary for 7 years would
cost approximately

£150,000



Well grounded students undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition Challenge

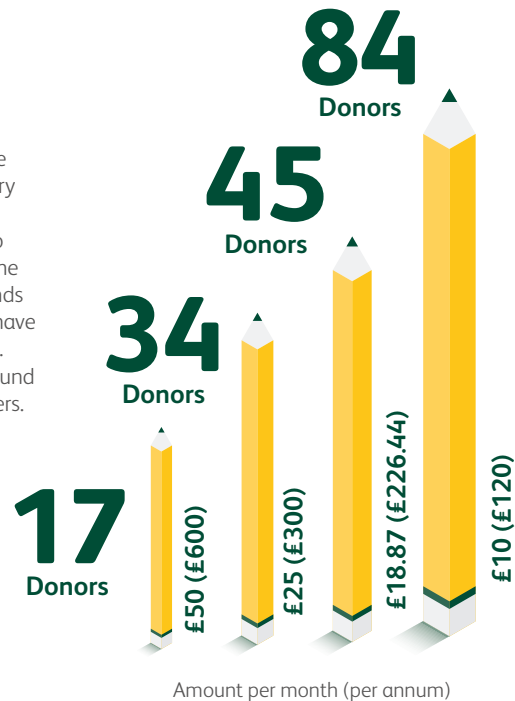


Bursaries

Last year, 47 students received bursaries at the School totalling £476,000. Ten of these bursaries are transformational at the 80 - 100% level. With the continuing pressure on family finances, our bursary applications are on the rise. We do not wish to turn away deserving applicants. Neither do we wish to see current students leave because of changes in family circumstances. Our ability to continue to provide bursary support is not only challenged by increasing demand but by external pressures on the Independent Educational sector. Schools with larger endowments can and do devote significant funds to transformational bursaries. Unlike other independent schools in the region, The Abbey does not have access to an endowment or an expendable fund to meet this growing demand for financial support. We are therefore looking for committed donors from The Abbey family who can support our 1887 Fund programme and ensure that more students have access to all the opportunities that The Abbey offers.

Over the past 5 years 297 students have received some level of bursary support. This equates to assisted financial help offered in excess of £2.8 million.

A typical Abbey 50% bursary for one student for one year is equivalent to approximately £10,000.



Through both World Wars and periods of tough financial times spanning 130+ years The Abbey has been able to offer financial assistance to many students through the determination and huge generosity of its parents, staff, governors and alumnae.

The 1887 Fund offers opportunities to students that change lives.

Bursaries have a transformational impact on their recipients and on the communities to which they go on to contribute so much.

The Abbey offers an education that is remarkable in its breadth and range. Your support helps us to ensure it is as inclusive and powerful as possible.

Making a donation to The Abbey is a living and vital way to transform lives far into the future.

Mr Willie Fleming - Head



How much do we need to raise?

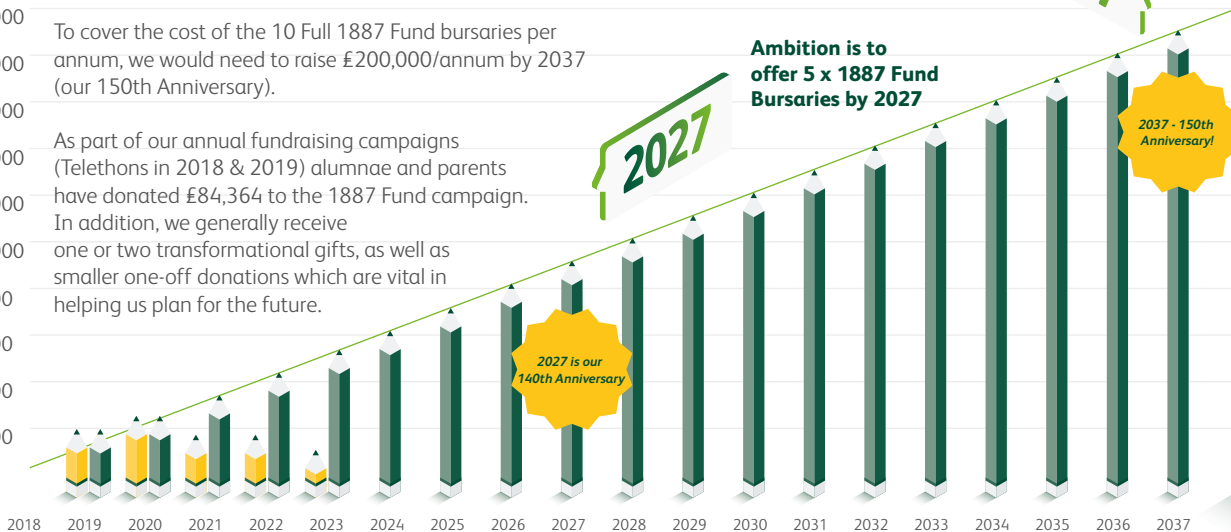
1887 FUND RECIPIENTS

**Ambition is to offer
10 x 1887 Fund
Bursaries by 2037**

**Ambition is to
offer 5 x 1887 Fund
Bursaries by 2027**

To cover the cost of the 10 Full 1887 Fund bursaries per annum, we would need to raise £200,000/annum by 2037 (our 150th Anniversary).

As part of our annual fundraising campaigns (Telethons in 2018 & 2019) alumnae and parents have donated £84,364 to the 1887 Fund campaign. In addition, we generally receive one or two transformational gifts, as well as smaller one-off donations which are vital in helping us plan for the future.



Bursary Amount (donated so far)



Target



Linear (Target)



2037 - 150th Anniversary!

2027 is our 140th Anniversary

2027

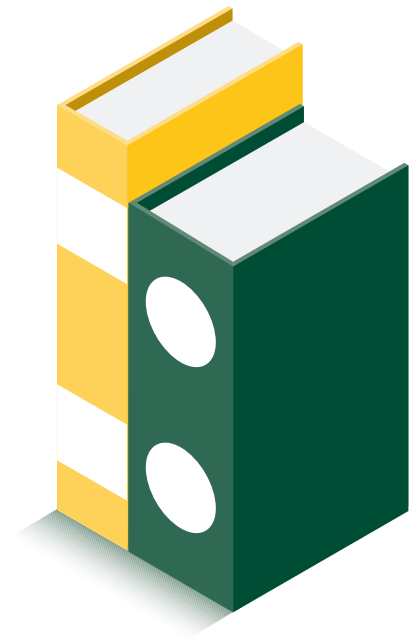
2037



Where does my donation go?

Your donation will be ring-fenced for the 1887 Fund (for bursaries) and no funds raised will be spent on the administration of this bursary - meaning all your gift is truly transformational. A gift at any level can make a significant difference, whether you provide part of a group's cumulative donation towards a full 110% bursary or all of the bursary required in any given year.





Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer and you complete the Gift Aid Declaration on The Abbey's Donation Form, the School can reclaim an additional 25% of your donation at no extra cost to you. We reclaim this extra amount from tax you have already paid to HMRC and add this directly to the bursary appeal. If you are a higher rate UK tax payer at 40%, you can also reclaim additional tax refunds through your self-assessment forms annually. This means that the actual cost of your donation could be considerably less than the actual sum donated, whilst The Abbey will receive 25% more than you actually donated - thanks to HMRC.

Monthly Donation	£20	£100	£1,000
Gift Aid claimed by The Abbey	£5	£25	£250
Value of Donation to The Abbey	£25	£125	£1250
Tax rebate for a 40% taxpayer	£5	£25	£250
NET cost to a 40% taxpayer	£15	£75	£750
Total Gift received over 12 months (including Gift Aid)	£300	£1500	£15,000
Total cost to Donor in one year	£180	£900	£9,000

An aerial photograph of a school campus. In the foreground, a large parking lot is filled with cars. The main building is a large, multi-story brick structure with a prominent gabled roof and a modern glass extension. To the right, there is a more traditional brick building with a steep roof and a half-timbered section. In the background, a large green field, likely a sports field, is visible, surrounded by trees and residential buildings.

Senior School site showing new sciences block unveiled in 1974

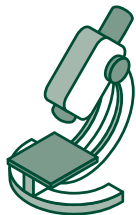
Our History of Philanthropic Benefaction spans 130+ years. All our Abbey students benefit from the benefaction of others. This is the magic behind the 'gift of giving'.

Miss Musson

1902 - 1935

33 years as Head

- 1902 the School had 32 students.
- 1905 Reading High School moved to our present 'Abbey School' site to be able to accommodate 250 girls.
- 1907 Boys were admitted up to age 10.
- 1913 Reading High School changed its name to The Abbey School.
- 1920 the School had 210 students.



Miss Macdonald

1935 - 1960

25 years as Head

- 1940 Direct Grant status conferred upon The Abbey.
- 1946 Government accredited The Abbey as a Grammar School offering free places to local Junior School students. The School had 300+ students and stopped admitting boys. Kensington House ceased to be a boarding house for girls and became The Abbey Junior School.
- 1949 the School had 405 students.
- 1960 the School had 500 students.

Miss Hardcastle

1960 - 1991

31 years as Head

- 1970 the School had 700 students.
- 1976 the Direct Grant system was phased out and The Abbey became fully independent again.
- 1978 Boys were admitted into the Junior School once again.
- 1980 the Government's Assisted Places Scheme was introduced.
- 1987 16 coaches transported the whole School to the banks of the Thames in Henley at Temple Island for a Centenary lunch and tea with a day of games and fun.
- 1991 the School reached over 1,000 students, the level at which it has remained since.

New Junior School frontage extension to Kensington buildings, classrooms, FabLab, The Space and Receptions rooms - official opening in the Spring Term 2021.



Miss Sheldon

1991 - 2001

11 years as Head

- The Government's Assisted Places Scheme was phased out in 1994. Parents were increasingly requesting bursary assistance and specialist scholarships were introduced.
- The generosity of parents and donors was sought for bursaries to offer to deserving girls.
- In 1994 The Abbey volunteered to undertake the Pilot Scheme of Quality and Management Audit, receiving a successful report showing it offered an exceptionally wide range of subjects and activities to students of all ages.
- The Abbey was placed top of all schools in performance tables in the Berkshire region in 1995.

Mrs Stanley

2002 - 2014

12 years as Head

- In 2008, the International Baccalaureate was introduced as a Sixth Form programme of study alongside the more traditional A Levels.
- There was also a link to The Abbey's roots with the repurchase of the building known as Burge House - now called Abbey Gardens. The School also purchased Turret House which now accommodates The Abbey Museum and Art Gallery.
- The generosity of parents and donors continued with a robust bursary and scholarship programme in place in the Senior School.

Mrs Dent

2014 - 2020

6 years as Head

- The comprehensive scholarship and bursary programme was continued and strengthened throughout the Senior School with over 45% of all Senior School students receiving some form of financial aid, thanks to the continued generosity of parents and donors.
- In 2017, the 130th Anniversary year, The Turret House Gallery and Museum spaces were opened and the building converted into office space for the External Relations department.
- The Abbey Fellowship and Abbey Guild structures were launched in 2017.
- Abbey America & Abbey Asia Alumnae Associations were launched in 2018.
- The small field to the back of the Blenheim, Music and Turret Houses was cleared and repurposed for use by the students and for Alumnae events.
- Fundraising started apace with the successful launch of two Telethons in 2018 and 2019 respectively, raising approximately £150,000 for the Annual and 1887 Funds.

Student Philanthropy

There has been a long tradition of students raising significant sums for local and global charities as well as giving of their time to help those less fortunate than themselves. As early as 1903 students got involved in 'The Coley Treat' - an annual event over Christmas time hosting parties for hungry, poor and uncared-for young children from the Reading area. In recent years the students have been involved in the Reading Refugee Club helping local refugees and their children integrate better into life in the UK by helping them with their written and oral English language skills. Annually, Abbey students from the Junior and Senior schools donate over £50,000 to various local and international charities.

Overseas Donors

The Abbey is registered with the British Schools and Universities Foundation (BSUF), a charitable organisation which enables US donors to give to UK schools tax efficiently. The Abbey also works with Transnational Giving Europe.

Craig Andrew, Head of External Relations at The Abbey would be delighted to discuss any aspect of support or planned legacy giving in more detail.
andrewcr@theabbey.co.uk or **07734 557190/ 0118 987 6950**



Transforming Lives Campaign



The Annual Fund

To enhance the opportunities provided to our current students



The 1887 Fund

To offer transformational bursaries to students to attend The Abbey



The Capital Fund

To invest in our campus and our facilities



The Legacy Fund

To secure our financial future

“Our Abbey girls and young women benefit from the superb staff, innovative curriculum and holistic experiences that epitomise an Abbey Education. We have begun our philanthropic journey for our Abbey community, specifically to make sure that those students who would greatly benefit from the experience here, can access the financial support they may need. Many of our Abbey families are being challenged financially, and your continued support allows us to ensure (as much as we are able) that their daughters’ education continues. My sincerest gratitude on behalf of the entire school community and my fellow Governors for any support you can give.”

Julie Cornell - Governor and Chair of The Abbey Community Committee



To discuss any aspect of giving, including donations, pledges, planned giving, legacy giving or tax issues please contact:

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The Abbey