



Find out more theabbey.co.uk/support-us







About The Abbey

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

Our outlook is internationally-minded and collaborative. Our goal is to prepare students to live with confidence, purpose, and joy.

We have played a leading role in the education of women for over 130 years. During that time we have adapted and innovated, preparing students for the always-changing world that lies ahead of them. That is true now more than ever. We seek to equip girls to face the future on their own terms, driven by courage, honesty and kindness above all.

Will le Fleming

Head

The Abbey Purpose

The Abbey School exists to provide an outstanding, challenging and fulfilling education for girls that equips them to live with confidence, purpose and joy.

Working in partnership with families, we support each individual student to expand their horizons, discover their passions and fulfill their potential. We seek to achieve excellence within and environment prioritising kindness and fellowship.

Our objective over 130 years of leadership, innovation and reform has been to provide a liberal, practical and general education. That remains true today:

Liberal in thought, tolerance, and generosity.

Practical in preparing students to face a changing world on their own terms, excited by opportunity and resolute towards uncertainty.

General in the remarkable breadth and range of experience and encouragement to participate.





The Transforming Lives Campaign Funds

The 1887 Fund

The 1887 Fund offers means-tested transformational bursaries to those students who have qualified academically for a place at the School but are in significant need of financial assistance.

Historically, The Abbey has been able to provide over a quarter of Abbey students access through the government funded Direct Grant and Assisted Places Scheme. Since the cancellation of these schemes, over 20 years ago, we have relied upon the generosity and support of like-minded alumnae, parents and friends, who provide the means to change the lives of talented young people forever.

This fund allows students to embark on an educational journey that opens up opportunity for them and the communities to which they go on to contribute.

The Annual Fund

Unlike many schools, The Abbey does not have an endowment fund to draw from to invest in our environment, our resources, or our bursary programme.

The Annual Fund enables us to raise money for extra educational experiences, equipment, enhance our environment, and support the areas of greatest need alongside the bursary programme.

The Blenheim Society

The Abbey is enormously grateful to those who choose to make a gift in their Will. To recognise this generous contribution, all who indicate an intention to leave a gift in their Will to The Abbey become members of The Blenheim Society, named to commemorate the previously titled Blenheim House Ladies' School.

The Blenheim Society enables your memory to 'live on' with a gift from your estate. Whether giving in gratitude for your time at The Abbey, or to create an enduring legacy, you will ensure that The Abbey flourishes for future generations.

The Capital Fund

We have plans in place spanning the next two decades to improve the curriculum, the co-curricular offer, the dining room, the Sixth Form and wellbeing facilities for all students.



Our ambition for the future

£18,870 annually

£1,887,000 by 2037 (our 150 Anniversary)

£18,870,000 within the next 20 years

We can't do this alone. We can only achieve our ambitions with your generous support.



Transformational Abbey Stories

Emma Alington (2007)

Ceramic Designer

Perseverance learned at a young age proved invaluable to ceramic designer Emma as she pursued her dream of building a high-end homeware brand.

She credits The Abbey with instilling the value of perseverance particularly when faced with adversity: "It's a life skill that I really value on a daily basis while I'm in the early stages of running a business."

Emma has an eponymous label creating bespoke pieces for clients such as: Fortnum & Mason, Freddie's Flowers, Missoma, The Fat Duck, Katie Leamon, The Hinds Head, A.O.K. Kitchen & Bakery, Fenwick and Boots, and has featured on ITV. She has also created bespoke designs for The Abbey, which are available online.

Maria Tsaptsinos (2015)

England Table Tennis

Maria joined The Abbey in Upper III (Year 7) and consistently represented England throughout her time at The Abbey. The School supported Maria's sporting abilities in her important academic years and encouraged participation at international events. She found the School's assistance helped overcome the challenges of balancing study and sport which she frequently faced as a Team England athlete.

"My whole attitude changed dramatically while at The Abbey. I joined the School as a very different character to the one who left - I arrived rebellious and all over the place. The School guided me to use my talents in a positive way and I eventually gained a thirst for learning. The staff were very understanding and helped me develop my own way of thinking about academia. I eventually achieved much greater than I originally anticipated and left a more determined character."

Three years after leaving The Abbey, Maria went on to win Team Bronze at the Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018 - the first team medal for Women's Table Tennis - while also gaining a First Class Degree in Geography at The University of Nottingham.





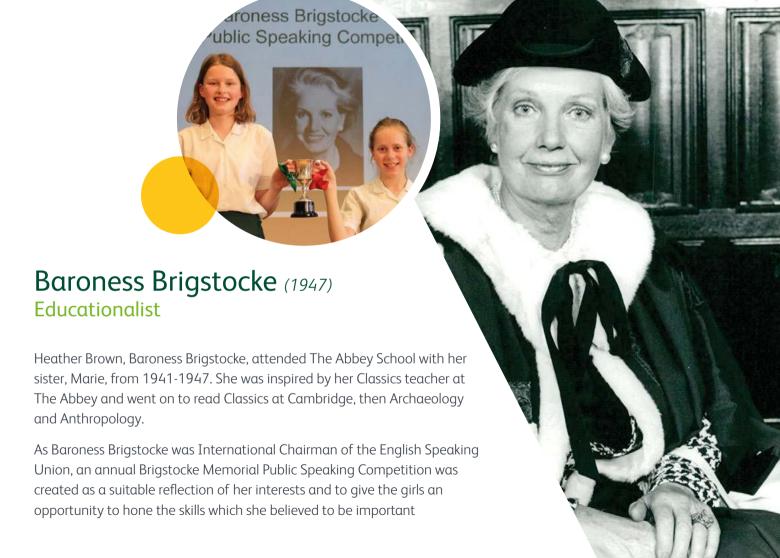
Tessa Baker (2006)

Cosmologist

Tessa had little idea on joining The Abbey that she would one day end up as a field-leading cosmologist and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. Indeed, when it came to picking her A Levels at The Abbey, Tessa didn't initially take Maths and Physics for fear she was not 'good enough'. However, with the encouragement and support of her teachers, Tessa switched subjects, ultimately going on to achieve a PhD in Astrophysics and Cosmology at Oxford.

Tessa credits much of her success to the exceptional education she enjoyed at The Abbey, and the ethos the School instilled in her to trust in her core self, welcome change and to take challenges head on.

In 2015, she was awarded the 'Women of the Future' award for Science. In 2018, she was awarded a University Research Fellowship from the Royal Society (the UK's oldest scientific society). In 2019, Tessa moved to Queen Mary University in London to join the Cosmology & Relativity group as a Royal Society University Research Fellow and proleptic senior lecturer.





Sophie Drakeford-Lewis (2017)

England Netball

Sophie joined The Abbey in Reception during 2003 and is in her final year studying Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at University. Sophie combines her studies with her love of Netball, playing for the Vitality England Roses. Sophie's international journey started when she was selected as part of the England National Academy in 2014.

"My proudest achievement would be making my debut for the England Roses when I was 18. It was always a dream of mine to play to the highest level that I could and so to be given the opportunity to play for England at a senior level in front of family and friends was a surreal moment. Putting on the red England dress and singing the national anthem is always a privilege but the first time was particularly memorable."

Sophie's ethos is to believe that anything is possible. With hard work and commitment, she is able to combine studying for a degree in engineering whilst having an extremely busy training and competing schedule.

Amy Flaxman (2004)

Postdoctoral Scientist

From an early age, Amy was fascinated with the natural world, and in particular how living things work. She always found the interaction between organisms, such as that between a host and a pathogen, intriguing. Amy has always been interested in translational research – 'how can what we do at the bench have an impact on the health of the general public?'

In her role at the Jenner Institute, she has previously worked on clinical trials for outbreak pathogens such as Ebola, MERS-CoV and influenza. Her job involved measuring antibody responses induced by these vaccines. Since April 2020, Amy has been working on assessing immune responses in the Oxford/AstraZeneca ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine clinical trials.

"I have worked harder since April 2020 than ever before, and hopefully more than I will ever have to again! Sometimes the workload becomes frustrating – particularly when you think you have completed a task and can have a small breather, but then there is another, often bigger, task a moment later.

For me, the best path forward in such situations is to pull together as a team and work out how to achieve the end-goal using the skill sets of the individuals in the lab. There have been many highs and lows in the last year but these have been shared among co-workers, many of whom I would never have had the pleasure of working with if it weren't for these Oxford/AstraZeneca ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine clinical trials.

Aspects of Abbey Life that have helped me both in my career and personal development include being encouraged to study what motivated me as an individual, a good work ethic and building relationships with peers and others around me."



Major Hannah Sawford (2008) British Army Major

Head Girl Hannah left The Abbey in 2008 and attended Medical School at King's College in London. While at Medical School, Hannah also undertook an intercalated MSc in War and Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry and made the decision to join the Army as a doctor.

Hannah attended Sandhurst Military Academy and was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps. Following this, Hannah spent 3 years as a General Duties Medical Officer and achieved as varied time as possible in order to experience many aspects of Army life. She was deployed on a large-scale armoured warfare exercise in British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS), Canada; provided real life support (RLS) medical cover for Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training in Hereford; and conducted medicals for Gurkha recruit selection in Nepal. Hannah was also deployed for 6 months to South Sudan, where the UK Task Force was supporting the UN mission. She was one of the two primary health care doctors deployed to care for the UK Task Force who were building a hospital and roads for the UN.

Professor Dr. Sara Goodacre (1992)

Geneticist and 'Spider Woman'

Sara was born in March 1974, and was in our 'Class of 1992'. After graduating from Cambridge University she has gone on to become a Research Fellow at Oxford, and now holds a Research Geneticist and Professor post at Nottingham University.

Described by the BBC as 'Spider Woman', these creepy crawlies have become the secret behind Sara's research. She founded 'SpiderLab' in 2007, which looks at the evolution of spiders and spider silk, focussing in particular on the unusual types of silk that some spiders can make. Along with chemists at the University of Nottingham, her research seeks to develop functionalised spider silk that can be used for drug delivery, wound healing and regenerative medicine.

"I've always been interested in biology...I think it was just this constant fascination with the world around me and I just can't imagine having done anything else. I am so pleased that I actually ended up making it into this job... the sciences and maths were my favourite subjects at school and I'm so grateful to all the teachers — and to the life-long friends I made at the Abbey too — for giving me such a good start to what is turning out to be the journey of a life time."



Ways To Donate

Together we can transform lives

Generations of Abbey students have benefited from inspirational teaching and have made friends for life. We hope that you will join us in transforming lives in whatever way you feel best able. A gift from you, no matter what size, will help transform the life of a future Abbey alumna.

Regular donations

Giving on a regular basis is an affordable way of donating. Regular gifts quickly add up when joined with the contributions of other supporters. A transformational 1887 Fund bursary is equivalent to:









A donation of £10/week or £40/month, for a year, is the equivalent cost of one full English or three Starbucks a week for a month. Combined with 30 similar donations, you can help transform a life.



Single gifts

We always welcome single donations and all gifts are gratefully received.

Commemorative gifts

You can make a donation in honour or a person (student, teacher, or friend), a celebration (birthday, graduation, or anniversary of a class year) or in memory of a special person.

Legacies (The Blenheim Society)

We realise that not everyone is able to donate in their lifetime. Legacy donations are a meaningful and enduring gift. All legacy donations, whatever their size, will help transform the lives of future Abbey girls.

Other forms of giving

If you would like to discuss tax-efficient giving, gifts of shares or property, giving via the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), BSUF, gifts from overseas, company-matching schemes, or other forms of giving, please contact the External Relations Office or visit our website at www.theabbey.co.uk/support-us

Gift aid

With any donation, you can help The Abbey further by gift-aiding your donation, which allows us to claim 25% tax from HM Revenue and Customs for every £1 donated by a UK taxpayer. Furthermore, higher rate taxpayers can claim additional relief via their Self-Assessment tax return.

Volunteering

Support can take other forms. For example, you can join us on the AbbeyConnect network and volunteer to mentor a student, host an event, or share your expertise.

Tax efficient giving globally

Donations from the US may be directed through British School & Universities Foundation in the USA (BSUF) as the most tax efficient way and European taxpayers can usually benefit from www.transnationalgiving.eu

The Abbey is hoping to engender support from several Alumnae living abroad worldwide and will develop relevant tax efficient mechanisms for donors as the need arises.

Working through CAFs (Charities Aid Foundation) incountry and/or local country tax mechanisms could allow for tax deductibility in-country - for eg. USA (501(c)3) organisations, Australia (DGRs) organisations, South Africa (Section 18A) organisations, etc.

How To Donate



Online

You can set up a regular donation or give a single gift by visiting: www.theabbey.co.uk/support-us



By post

If you would prefer to set up a regular donation or send a single gift by post, please complete the donation form - available from our offices or you can download the form from our website www.theabbey.co.uk/support-us



By phone

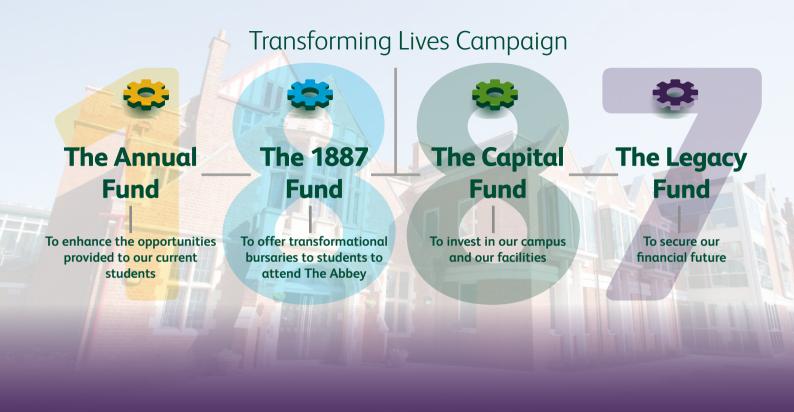
If you would like to discuss your giving with us, please call the External Relations Office: 0118 987 6903

www.theabbey.co.uk/support-us









TOGETHER, we can transform lives

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