



THE ORATORY
1859

Heart Speaks To Heart Campaign

A Proud History; An Exciting Future

Supporting The Oratory School

COR AD COR LOQUITUR

Introduction

The Oratory School has been providing an outstanding education since 1859. Founded by Saint John Henry Newman, arguably the greatest educational thinker of the Victorian age, the school offers an outstanding all-round education within a supportive Catholic ethos, that fully prepares pupils for their lives beyond school.

Despite being a broadly non-selective school, we have very high academic standards. The majority of pupils leave The Oratory with higher grades than the national average for their ability and gain entry to their first choice Universities.

It is an exciting time for the school as we celebrate 160 years since our founding, prepare to welcome our pioneer girls in 2020 and rejoice at the news of our Founder being declared a Saint.



An Oratory education

An Oratory education seeks to draw out innate talents and qualities within all our young people, and instil in them a sense of joy. Our sense of community, where every individual is valued and nurtured, is unparalleled. Pupils from The Oratory have always succeeded in a wide range of professions, motivated by a passion to follow what they love, to achieve great things for the benefit of themselves and the community, and to lead happy lives. An Oratory education helps pupils to find their passion, whatever that may be.

The future

Our strategic objectives include continuing to raise standards in teaching and learning to ensure every young person exceeds their academic potential; enhancing the provision of an excellent all-round education; and providing outstanding pastoral care for all pupils.

We are very proud of our school and the education we provide. We have built up a reputation for excellence and our aim for the future is to make an Oratory education accessible to more families. We will do this by making fees more affordable and by increasing our provision for transformational bursaries.



The need

Unlike other schools, The Oratory has no endowment. Therefore, to support our ambitious plans, a Development Office was established. In years to come, voluntary income from the wider community will help to ensure that the educational infrastructure is of a quality that simply cannot be afforded by revenue alone, enabling many more young people to thrive and exceed their academic potential.

A history of philanthropy

Philanthropy is not new at The Oratory. Saint John Henry gave huge sums of his money to the school and inspired others to support his vision through philanthropic gifts. Mrs Wootten gave the Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory £10,000: an enormous sum in those days - around half a million pounds in today's money.

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HEART SPEAKS TO HEART

Bursaries Fund

Kindest Hearts, Brightest Minds – increasing opportunities for young people

Increasing our bursary provision is the right thing to do morally and spiritually. Bursaries are an investment in the life of a child and we aim to focus our support on children for whom the chance of an Oratory education would be a transformative prospect. Those children who will flourish individually but also whose presence will broaden diversity within the school and have a positive impact on the experience of others at The Oratory.

In fact, the benefits ripple far beyond the school grounds as bursary recipients often inspire family members and young people in their home communities to follow in their footsteps.



“Receiving a bursary to attend The Oratory was definitely a highlight in my academic life. It enabled me to get exposure not only to great teaching but some fantastic experiences. I was involved in cricket, rugby and football mainly but was able to enjoy other sports such as golf and squash in my free time. I hold the memories, experiences and friendships from my time at The Oratory very close to me.”

Sean Thornton (OS 2009-11)

Global challenges

Bursaries are important as our young people are facing increasingly challenging futures that will require the ability to work collaboratively with others from different cultures and backgrounds. We are producing young men, and from 2020, young women of the future: successful, confident and well-rounded young men and women who will contribute positively to society, embracing these challenges with bright minds and open hearts.

Our vision

Raising aspirations and attainment

We aim to widen access to an Oratory education, enabling more young people to fulfil their potential. Our school will be a vibrant community of pupils that is both exceptionally talented and diverse, reflecting the highest standards in academic, musical, artistic and sporting achievement.

"Receiving a bursary gave me the platform to develop both in and out of the classroom. I played rugby and rowed, made lifelong friendships and attended my first choice university. The teaching staff, facilities and opportunities at The Oratory are second to none." Andrew Grant (OS 2006-11)



Accurately predicting future bursary numbers is hard because our bursaries are allocated on need. However, our vision is to increase our financial commitment to bursaries by around 75% in five years, bringing the total spent on bursaries to around £800,000.

Our plan is one of continuous development, a sustainable future where the Oratory is accessible to all. With your help and through careful management of the school's finances we will continue to thrive, fulfil our founding mission and offer excellence in education for the next 160 years and beyond.

We put real value on educating the whole person: head, heart, hands, enabling our pupils to become confident all-rounders.

Specific Projects

These projects will enhance the academic, extra-curricular and pastoral activities and opportunities for pupils.

Current projects:

Chairs for the Cricket Pavilion	To enable spectators and players to watch cricket matches.	£100 each	12 required 4 funded
Honours and Captains' boards for the Cricket Pavilion	To celebrate our historical cricketing success.	£1,000 each	2 required 2 funded
School CCF Banner	To parade on special occasions.	£2,500	
Chapel vestments	Bearing Blessed JHN's arms to be used on his feast day.	£2,000 for a Low Mass set or £7,000 for a set for High Mass.	
Music department	New robes for the Schola. A new piano for the department.	£2,000 £5,000	

"With growing pupil numbers; academic and sporting success; and a continued reputation for excellence, we launch the Heart Speaks To Heart campaign from a position of strength. We recognise and embrace the changing world around us and look forward to continuing to enrich the lives of current and future pupils. However we need the support of the affectionately named 'Oratory family'. With your help, and taking inspiration from Saint John Henry and Mrs Wootten, we can leave a legacy which we can enjoy and of which everyone can be proud, ensuring that The Oratory remains a beacon for truly outstanding education for generations to come." **Joe Smith, Head Master**

To discuss supporting The Oratory School, please contact
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