



The Arnold
Foundation
FOR RUGBY SCHOOL



ANNUAL REVIEW
2021

AT THE HEART OF THE RUGBY COMMUNITY

This year we have 27 Arnold Foundation students, nine of whom joined us in September.

Before the end of the summer term each of the new cohort had already (virtually, due to Covid) met one of the team of Arnold Foundation tutors who will be keeping a watchful eye while they are at Rugby on their academic and pastoral progress and their physical and mental wellbeing. They had joined their House tutor groups, got to know their D Block peers, and their parents had all been contacted by the Arnold Foundation Parent Liaison Group.

These layers of gentle support are what make the Arnold Foundation unique. They allow the Arnold Foundation students to flourish in safety and to enjoy the challenges and fun of school life in a House system based on loyalty and community spirit. Many Arnold Foundation students have come to us from very different types of school and are astonished at the extent of what is on offer and how busy they are going to be: an extensive

IGNITE THE SPARK

If you haven't seen it already, log on to www.rugbyschool.co.uk/arnold-foundation/home and watch our 'Ignite the Spark' film created to illustrate how together we can make the most of a child's talent here at Rugby School.

Where you come from is not the point.
Where you are going is...



academic curriculum, dozens of different activities, sport, music, theatre, overseas trips, interesting speakers, wonderful facilities.

Their parents are supported too by our Parent Liaison Group, most of whom are parents of former Arnold Foundation students, who help them to get to know the School and answer any questions they may have. The concept of a boarding school can be a strange one to many families and having access to other parents' experience is reassuring. We have augmented the Group this year and are delighted by the enthusiasm and thoughtful involvement of parents willing to support new families.

This year's students are from Blackpool, Coventry, Hertfordshire, Liverpool, London, Scotland and Wales. Some of them came to us via our partner organisations; some approached



us direct, following recommendations from their schools, friends, parents' employers. Our geographical spread is widening across the UK and we are delighted at that.

Gareth Parker-Jones, Head of Rugby School, is very clear that the Arnold Foundation makes the School a better place for all our students. Welcoming the 2020/21 Arnold Foundation arrivals, he explained the importance of the two-way contract: 'Rugby School offers you extraordinary opportunities; we expect you to

seize them, to make the most of your talents, and to embrace the ethos of the School.'

And they do. With spectacular results. All the Arnold Foundation students who left last summer had secured university places: two to study medicine – at Cardiff and University College London – and the others have taken up places to study a variety of subjects at Durham, Napier, Loughborough, Leeds Arts University and Reading. Former students are graduating from university with top degrees, and several have embarked on Masters and PhD programmes.

We are a selective school, and proudly academic. We are also committed to widening access – 41 per cent of our 846 students have some form of fee assistance. We are open to applications from any clever, talented child who has the determination to succeed but is without the means to afford a boarding place. The Arnold Foundation, funded entirely by voluntary donations, makes that possible and, since its formation 18 years ago, has allowed 145 students to benefit from a Rugby education. And the School has benefited from them.

That's why the Arnold Foundation works so well.

“ Rugby School offers you extraordinary opportunities; we expect you to seize them, to make the most of your talents, and to embrace the ethos of the School. ”

Life on the NHS frontline

Several former Arnold Foundation students studied medicine and allied subjects, and now work in the NHS so have been part of the frontline service caring for those who have suffered from the impact of Covid 19. We asked four of them to tell us a little of the personal challenges they faced.



Agnes Traore is a charge nurse in the Critical Care department of The Royal Brompton Hospital in London. She came to Rugby via our partner IntoUniversity in London.

'Being the charge nurse of 25 ventilated patients and staying calm in front of colleagues, and emotionally supporting them, were probably the most overwhelming forms of stress in my career to date. The challenge of fighting a disease that we knew nothing about, sitting with colleagues at 3 in the morning,

crying on our breaks because we did not know how to make our patients improve, listening to loved ones saying their goodbyes on Facetime. Apologising that I couldn't do any more. All these were surreal experiences. But the most positive takeaway has been the amazing efforts of teamwork I have witnessed.

'My experiences this year have highlighted for me the health inequality gap between the general population and those who are from black and ethnic minority backgrounds. I have enrolled in a Public Health MSc at UCL so that I can find a way to improve access to better diagnosis, facilities and treatments for those who do not have the same resources.

'I would not have chosen to enter nursing without the guidance of my Head Master whilst at Rugby. Coming from a different socio-economic background into Rugby reinforced the importance of fair access to opportunity. The idea of two students who have grown up in different circumstances having the same access to education is what I want to see reflected in healthcare.'



Dr Michael Mather is a Clinical Fellow in Otolaryngology at Newcastle University. He was encouraged to apply to Rugby by his teacher at school in Northumberland.

'At the peak of the pandemic, it became clear that medical research was one of the critical industries to assist with the fight against Covid 19. We have been able to make unique contributions to the research effort by looking at possible atypical manifestations of Covid 19.'

'I remember when I was in the LXX taking part in an engineering project in which we had to identify a bridge in need of renovation, then come up with a range of designs including all the mechanics and load-bearing calculations. In much the same way we have applied our existing immunology expertise in middle

ear infections to investigate whether the virus can cause ear infections, using an array of laboratory techniques that we translated from other research projects. Thinking innovatively and laterally is going to be key to better understanding the effects of Covid 19.

'Rugby instilled in me a strong sense of resilience which is critical in times such as this. The ability to square up to a challenge and keep picking yourself up when you get knocked down is the only way to proceed. I learned how to keep calm under pressure at Rugby, and gained the confidence to lead others.'



Ollie Akinboro is a medical student in her final clinical year at Liverpool University. She was encouraged to apply to Rugby by her head teacher at George Greens School on the Isle of Dogs.

'At the start of the pandemic I received an email from the dean of my medical school telling me that the rise in Covid 19 cases meant hospital placements and lectures would be postponed until May (which soon became August).

Suddenly final year medics were prematurely drafted to work in whatever way we could. I began working in my local NHS Trust as a healthcare assistant, juggling those responsibilities while adjusting to virtual learning and preparing for my end-of-year assessments.

'My time at Rugby instilled in me the importance of playing my part, standing up and being counted. Working during the pandemic I felt morally compelled to play my part, no matter how small. I have been inspired to keep forging on with my medical training.'

Lauren Mackenzie is a physiotherapist in the Critical Care Department at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

She came to Rugby via our partner Hawick High School. She contracted the virus in March and was admitted to hospital for five days. Still recovering, physically and mentally, she went back to work as soon as she could.

'I was used to treating the sickest of patients, but the patients we were faced with in ICU were at another level. They had been paralysed and ventilated for weeks and months,

leaving them extremely weak and deconditioned. This was physically demanding and was made more difficult by being head to toe in the essential full PPE.

'I have worked with so many amazing people in the NHS, from cleaners to consultants, and feel humbled to be part of this amazing workforce.

'Being a boarder at Rugby not only developed me into a person with strong core values but gave me the confidence to communicate with others. Combined with the leadership skills I gained there, I have been able to step up and be an advocate for my fellow junior physiotherapists when we felt under pressure.'



What Rugby School means to me...



Mollie

'I had dreamed of boarding school but had a fancy idea of what it would be like. It was a culture shock when I arrived – but the Old Quad fitted the dream.

'Academically, it is intense but we get a lot of support so I am confident about working for my A levels. I feel a bit guilty about the education I had during lockdown; at my old school they had no lessons for six months. There was no sport there either. I was amazed at the opportunities here. I tried hockey which turned out to be a great way to bond with the girls in my House and then I was selected to play in the team.

'I have gained so much confidence at Rugby. I gave a talk in Chapel about my involvement in the food bank we run as part of Community Action – I didn't think I could do that but it turned out okay.

'Politics was a new subject for me. I really enjoy it. I joined the Rugby Parliament, the Rugby Cabinet and the Tawney Society and have learned how to debate – to persuade and educate rather than get heated! It's really important that I say thank you to the Arnold Foundation for giving me the chance to be educated here. My dad hated me leaving home, but he agrees.'

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Mollie Winder and Festus Edzi Aboagye came to Rugby for the Sixth Form. Mollie, who is in her second year, came to the School from Liverpool via the Hope Opportunity Trust; she is studying Geography, Politics and English Literature. Festus, who is in his first year, came from the Gateway Academy in Tilbury. He is studying History, Philosophy and Business. Here they talk about what Rugby means to them.

Festus

'Eton was my first choice... but someone told me about Rugby School and I went on the website and it looked wonderful so I applied, had an interview and got in. Wow!

'I had got to know my group on Teams before I arrived so it made meeting everyone easier when term started. And my room is large – that was a surprise.

'Work is more structured here than at my old school and everyone uses laptops in the classroom – there were none at my old school. I played basketball before I came so I was pleased Rugby did too and I'm in the team. I play rugby, but it's not the same without contact... I play drums, so every weekend a boy in my House who's a music scholar and I go over to the Music Department and play together. I'm in the Student Voice group too, and this term I made a speech to the Sixth Form – some staff were there too – about racism.

'I know I will only change for the better by being here. I was told everyone would be posh but they're not – they're normal! There are so many opportunities here it has helped me on my way already.'



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Equal Values

About 200 years after the founding of Rugby School in 1567, Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote *The Social Contract*, a blueprint for the reciprocal obligations between individual and state that must exist if society is to function successfully. It is worth revisiting, especially for anyone involved in the education of children.



The Arnold Foundation will be 18 next year. It will have come of age. All of you reading this Review will know the huge contribution that the Foundation – and many of you – have already played in widening access to Rugby School, making the education and opportunities that we offer available, so far, to 145 clever, talented children.

I have been struck, in this Covid year, when everyone at Rugby School has worked so hard to deliver the Rugby School experience during lockdown – the teaching, the music and even the sport, the pastoral care and the emotional support



and friendship – of the importance of boarding. To be human is to be together. The students' joy at returning to school in September was palpable. The extra dimension of boarding was made even more apparent, and I believe that is a vital element of the Arnold Foundation experience.

I am proud to be involved with a venture that has been ahead of its time and more far-reaching and admired than almost any other similar bursary undertaking. Our donors and supporters are entirely responsible for this. The contract that Rugby School has with its Arnold Foundation students is a version of Rousseau's. We identify the children who we think will benefit from coming here and we provide a brilliant all-round education and a superb level of care – pastoral as well as academic. In exchange we want those students to seize the opportunities we offer, to work hard and to aim high. The value to the School of the Arnold Foundation students is, I hope, equal to the value of the School to them. It is always moving to hear their own accounts; there are several in this edition of the Review.

I am delighted that Claire Wills is the new Chair of the Arnold Foundation. As a director of the

Development Board, she gave the Arnold Foundation lecture in 2018 in which she encouraged the Rugby students in the audience not to surround themselves with people ‘who sound and look like you’, as they were likely to be familiar in their habits and outlook, but to seek out people with different backgrounds and attitudes. They would challenge the status quo bring a fresh perspective, broaden horizons. What an important piece of advice this is, and I believe our community reflects it.

The Arnold Foundation is an integral part of Rugby School. With the continued support, generosity and genuine interest of our wonderful donors, we aim to grow it. I would like to see many more Arnold Foundation students here. If more students from backgrounds that would



“ If more students from backgrounds that would normally prohibit entry to a school like ours are able to come to study here, our country’s education will become not only fairer but more effective. ”

normally prohibit entry to a school like ours are able to come to study here, our country’s education will become not only fairer but more effective. Mark Carney observed that after the pandemic there would be a reckoning that would reveal ‘who shared and who hoarded’. With the support of our donors, for which all of us here are so grateful, we can share even more. We can build a bigger and bolder Arnold Foundation whose legacy will be felt 100 years from now.

Coming of Age Celebrations

On 4 May 2021, the School will mark the Arnold Foundation’s 18th birthday with the launch of a programme of celebrations for students, former students, staff, parents and other members of the Rugbeian Community.

Until we can all be together, we will begin with virtual activity ahead of an 18 month programme of events around the UK and overseas. We are hoping you will be able to join in Rugby, London, New York or any one of 18+ locations to celebrate our successful and revolutionary programme.

More news and invitations will follow early in the New Year.

FACTS & FIGURES

The Arnold Foundation for Rugby School continues to make a considerable impact.

2428

DONORS

31

UNDERGRADUATES

145

BENEFITTED
IN TOTAL

27

STUDENTS
THIS YEAR

"Rugby's long term commitment to The Arnold Foundation speaks volumes about the School's core values and was a significant factor in our decision to educate our daughters there. I am so impressed with how it feels so integral to the fabric of the place and how everyone connected with it is so committed to ensuring it remains forever the absolute gold standard."

MARK TURNER

22

MEMBERS OF
THE LEVÉE

319

LEGACY PLEDGES

16

WITH
POSTGRADUATE
DEGREES

£8.9

MILLION IN
ENDOWMENT

7

HEADS OF
HOUSE

60

GRADUATES

£25.4

MILLION IN TOTAL

Last year, the Arnold Foundation was given a massive boost with £2.5 million from the 2018 sale at Christie's. Other donations and legacies have been given by members of the Rugby Community.

Thank you

The students' considerable success would not be possible without your financial help, your support of the work of the Foundation, your commitment to this special dimension of Rugby School, and your interest in the young people we recruit.

We continue to rely on generous involvement so that more students will benefit from our revolutionary programme.

The generosity of donors is acknowledged with our thanks, invitations to events, regular updates and a warm welcome at Rugby School whenever possible.

Thank you to everyone in our donor community. We greatly value your involvement and commitment and look forward to celebrating our 18th birthday milestone with you all in 2021.

MAKING A GIFT

Donations of all sizes make an important contribution to the work of the Arnold Foundation. The Arnold Foundation for Rugby School is a registered charity (1095856) and gifts can be made tax efficiently.

- Making a **single gift** or **setting up a direct debit using the donation form** and sending this to us using the reply paid envelope.
- Donating online at www.rugbyschool.co.uk/arnold-foundation/make-a-gift/give-now/
- Making a **bank transfer** with your name as a reference.
- Sending a **cheque** payable to the Arnold Foundation for Rugby School.
- Making a **gift of shares**. The Development Team will provide details of our investment advisors.
- Including the Arnold Foundation for Rugby School **in your Will**.

Please contact the Development Team or visit the website www.thearnoldfoundation.net to find out more about making a gift from the USA, Canada or from other European countries.

If you have any questions about the Arnold Foundation or making a gift, please call the Development Team on **01788 556 139** or email development@rugbyschool.net

THE FUNDING REQUIREMENT

The current annual cost of supporting one boarding student through the Arnold Foundation for Rugby School is £39,300. Awards are usually offered at 100%, and can include essential extras of uniform, laptop, books and course trips, subject to means-testing.

With students joining the F Block and LXX every year, income of £1.4 million is required annually to fund Arnold Foundation awards at Rugby School.

‘IF YOU WILL, THEY CAN’

Thank you to all our future legacy pledgers whose future contributions will make a massive difference to the Arnold Foundation. As the campaign to achieve 450 legacy pledges continues towards its target we hope you will include Rugby School or the Arnold Foundation in your Will and become part of our 450.

Legacy gifts are hugely important and all legacies, unless otherwise specified, are directed to the endowment fund of the Arnold Foundation. The income generated will ensure Arnold Foundation places are offered to young people with talent but without means long into the future. Please do let us know if you have made a legacy pledge or if you would like to talk about including a gift in your Will.

HOW TO CONTACT US

KERRY WILSON, Director of Development

EVAN LACK, Senior Researcher Officer

CHRISTINA KOTSANI, Development Officer

Development Office, Rugby School

6 Horton Crescent, Rugby CV22 5DJ

Telephone: +44(0)1788 556139

Email: development@rugbyschool.net

Website: www.thearnoldfoundation.net

RUGBY SCHOOL REGISTERED OFFICE

The Bursary, 10 Little Church Street, Rugby CV21 3AW

Telephone: +44(0)1788 556260

Email: bursary@rugbyschool.net

Website: www.rugbyschool.net

Rugby School Charity Registration Number: 528752. The Arnold Foundation for Rugby School Charity Registration Number: 1095856.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We like to keep members of the Rugby Community informed about events, celebrations, fundraising and School news. However, if you no longer wish to receive this publication, please do let us know by emailing data@rugbyschool.net, calling us on 01788 556109 or by updating your preferences on the website.

We are open and accessible to every child. Every girl and boy, from whatever life background, is welcome to apply for a place at Rugby School, if, and only if, we can see a determination in them to make the most of their talent.

That talent must be in the child, latent or already visible, and we are highly selective on that basis.

If the talent is there but the means are not, we, the **Arnold Foundation**, are here to make possible a Rugby School education.



The Arnold Foundation

FOR RUGBY SCHOOL

Find out about the Arnold Foundation.

Telephone: +44 (0)1788 556 139

Email: development@rugbyschool.net

www.thearnoldfoundation.net