

reading list foundation



15 December 2022

Dear Supporters;

We hope you are well, and able to keep reasonably warm. We just wanted to let you know what we have been up to over the past 12 months.

We've had another exciting year of growth and have moved a number of initiatives forward, including widening our group of Trustees, as well as securing a meeting with the Minister for Higher Education - none of which we could have done without our supporters. Most importantly of course, we've been able to help an exceptional cohort of young students as they start their Higher Education journeys.

One of the things we are most proud of as the programme has expanded is the breadth of coverage our Scholarships have, with students studying a diverse range of subjects from Astrophysics to Zoology, via Cyber Security and Midwifery, at universities all across the UK, as the destinations Word Cloud below illustrates:



As always, the young people your Scholarships support are so impressive, in any number of ways. They represent the cohort that had their GCSE exams cancelled due to the pandemic, and had their A-level study interrupted by lockdowns. In fact, the word that surfaced most often in their nominations was 'resilience'.

We had another record number of Scholarship winners this summer, and we are confident the cohort will go on to achieve great things:

“She was so quiet and timid when she joined our Sixth Form, but has grown so much in character during her time here. She has completed her Gold D of E and has supported other students in the lower school. She has also overcome health issues to achieve this, and has shown great strength of character over the last two years. She cried when we told her she had been awarded this scholarship, which really shows how much it means to her.”

“From his own experiences with social care, he has now secured a place to study Social Care to ensure he can give back to the system that helped him. His resilience and determination has been second to none, and we are exceptionally proud of this young man.”

“He has shown exceptional resilience and commitment over the last two years, so really deserves this award, which he will be over the moon with! He is going on to study Creative Writing at University which is a major passion of his and I have no doubt that he will excel in it.”

“She is an exceptional student but also an exceptional individual - one of our most socio-economically challenged students, she has never let this hold her back. Instead, it has propelled her to work harder than anyone else in her cohort. She supplemented her studies with part-time work to be able to financially support herself and she goes off to university to study Political Economy, which she will be an extraordinary scholar of. Simply put, this award will both make a huge difference but also be incredibly well-used.”

“As a young carer, he is a quiet, self-contained hero. He talks very little, works incredibly hard, and has secured a place at Imperial College London to study Medicine. As medical books are amongst the most expensive to buy, we believe that he will benefit enormously from this Scholarship, and will also feel the gratitude the most keenly. It couldn't go to a more deserving student.”

“She is a truly exceptional student. She has achieved consistent A and A grades throughout her time here, is a voracious reader, dedicated researcher, and formidable writer. Personally, she is incredibly modest, and would benefit greatly from recognition and encouragement. She produces essays that have stunned me in their nuance, incisiveness, and ambition. She is certain to benefit immensely from the Scholarship.”*

We'll finish by including two of the many 'thank yous' we receive, the first from a Head of Sixth Form and the second from a student, illustrating the fact that the Scholarships have emotional as well as financial impact.

“This year I awarded the Scholarship to one of our students on free school meals, who is an exemplary young lady with a very tough home life. I actually gave her the scholarship when she came in for one of her exams and she was overwhelmed. Later that day she messaged me and said - “I feel earlier that I didn't express how grateful I am for you picking me for the Scholarship. I was worried and distracted by the exam, as well as tired at that time in the morning. But I just wanted to send you an email to say that I am very grateful to have been given this honour, I am really proud and delighted, and the Scholarship will help me immensely

during my first year at university.” - Thank you again to your wonderful donors for continuing to support our students in this way. We are very grateful to you for giving us this lovely Scholarship to award.”

“Thank you so, so much for the Scholarship, it will make a big difference and it put a massive smile on my face :) THANK YOU “

Best wishes, and thank you :)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'n'.

Alan Terry
Co-Founder