



with **IMPACT**

2022 IMPACT REPORT

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**CHANGING  
LIVES  
CONNECTING  
FUTURES**





# Giving with IMPACT



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# Changing lives Connecting futures

At Staffordshire University we have always been immensely proud of our reputation as the Connected University. We work to support our students and connect them with aspirational opportunities for their life and work.

During the last two years, Staffordshire students and graduates have experienced adversity, isolation and challenges which could never have been foreseen in pre-pandemic times.

Our students' resilience, persistence and adaptability evokes great pride amongst us all at the University. Throughout the COVID-19 lockdowns, we have continued to find new ways to support students, extend their learning and create opportunities.

Yet now many more students will face financial challenges caused by the rising cost of living – including increased food prices, fuel for homes and travel, study resources and equipment. There has never been a more important time to recognise the economic challenges faced by many of our students, 28.8% of whom are in the highest categories for deprivation.

That is why our Development Board pledges to continue working with key business and education partners, charitable foundations and our influential alumni community, to fund life-changing opportunity awards, bursaries and scholarships through the Horizon Fund.

Even small contributions can make a collective difference.

Since the Horizon Fund was launched in 2013, more than 1,000 students have so far benefitted and been supported by financial awards totalling £3million.

This is a huge achievement, creating impact across the University and in wider society as graduates progress. On behalf of our students and everyone at the University, we'd like to extend our gratitude to our individual donors, Foundations and Trusts and to everyone who has contributed.

This publication presents some of this important work and demonstrates the impact of your donations on students and society.

**Deborah Sanderson**

Head of Development and Alumni Relations

## CHALLENGES FACING OUR STUDENTS:

### 28.8% INCREASED DEPRIVATION

28.8% of our students are from the lowest two deciles of the deprivation category\*

### 60% TRAVEL COSTS

Over 60% of our full-time students commute to the University

### 50% LOW PARTICIPATION

Many of our students are the first in their family to reach University – with 50% being drawn from areas with the lowest participation in education

### 38% MATURE STUDENTS

38% of our students are classified as 'mature' on entry and may require support with childcare

### 22% DISABILITY

22% of our students have a declared disability

### 3RD SOCIAL LOWEST MOBILITY

Stoke-on-Trent is 3rd lowest in the country for social mobility

\*Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) English Indices of Deprivation

# Ensuring a vital supply of graduates



## thanks to the Bertarelli Foundation

The lives of many of our students have been positively impacted upon through the generous value of bursaries that have been funded through the Bertarelli Foundation. The Bertarelli Foundation gives bursaries to students from non-traditional entry routes the best opportunities to transform their lives.

What's more, the fund also ensures a vital supply of new graduates into the NHS, teaching, education and private sector – many of whom are bringing important life and work experience, communication and other transferable skills as they enter the workforce after changing their life path.

Exclusive to Staffordshire University, the Bertarelli Foundation bursaries aim to boost retention and progression of students who live within a 30-mile radius of the University's campuses and have either completed our Step Up to HE course, or have successfully completed an Access to HE course at a local college. Here is a very special thank you from one of our students and also quotes from others who have benefited from this financial support whilst striving to further their career alongside raising their families.

**“My next instalment will help towards updating my current laptop as the keyboard is damaged and I have to now use the ‘on screen’ keyboard to type which can be frustrating and slows me down when working”.**



**Mariam Mohamed**

BA (Hons) Education Studies

The bursary last semester helped me immensely and allowed me to purchase an up-to-date DBS. I also purchased a webcam, microphone, laminator, and printing materials for my interviews.

I used the bursary to purchase core texts as without them I am certain I would have not got my highest grade of 88 on my first module of the academic year and my supervisor assures me that I am on track for a 1st Class degree.

I also purchased a 'dining table.' I and my children were struggling to work on the sofa, myself on my laptop and my children on their loaned laptops from school was a bit of a squeeze. The children have been on a reduced timetable since September, so they were accessing live lessons via teams 3 days a week, now that has increased to 5. The table has allowed us much needed to space to work, with myself overlooking them. Another plus is we can eat as a family and engage in much-needed conversation over meals during this strange time.

I just wanted to say 'thank you, sincerely'. It just seems like yesterday I was a mum to two young boys with no prospects of a better future, and now, I am going to be a Primary School Teacher. I could not have done this without this bursary.

Thank you and kind regards,

**Francesca**

BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



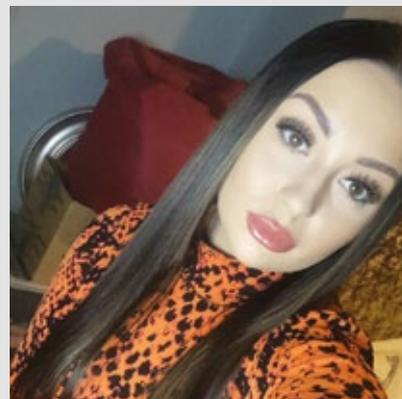
**The first bursary payment of this academic year has funded my new volunteer role in a young offenders' prison so it's helped with transport and training materials to further my studies and have an overall better experience during my degree.**



**Lorren Taylor-Ford**

BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice (Mental Health)

**The bursary has been fantastic for my second year, as we move into pharmacology units. There's so much more to learn so I've been fortunate enough to have the additional funds to purchase apps and books which have increased my knowledge base. I've also been able to book myself onto an additional course to learn about all of the new medications relevant to my mental health nursing specialism too.**



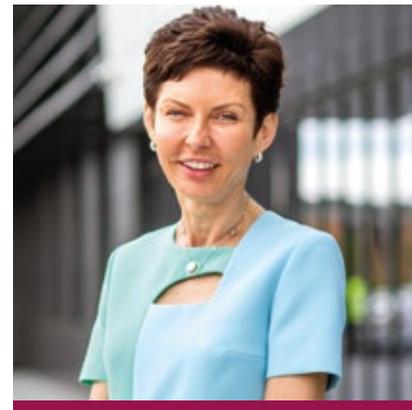
**Sasha Jackson**

BA (Hons) Criminal Justice with Offender Management



# Supporting local talent through the Denise Coates Foundation

Denise Coates CBE is an outstanding, successful businesswoman from Staffordshire, who was awarded her CBE for services to the community and business. Denise was made an Honorary Doctor of Staffordshire University in 2012 in recognition of the impact of her work in our city and her entrepreneurial vision.



Inspired by a desire to help those that were less fortunate than others, Denise was the driving force behind the creation of the Denise Coates Foundation in 2012. Since then the Foundation has committed to providing c£70m of grants to good causes across the UK and overseas.

The Foundation has contributed over £1 million to Staffordshire University's Horizon Fund, which has been used

to support a bursary programme for high achieving students from low-income families. Since the start of the programme over 500 students have received bursaries. Thanks to the most recent generous donation, further funding to support at least 100 more students has been committed to the University for this current academic year.



I would like to thank you for this vital support, it has really helped. I spent the kind donation on equipment mainly books, laptop and desks.

These really helped as it made studying very comfortable and enjoyable. My plan for the next instalment is to keep progressing in my studies and purchase more books, equipment and resources that will make my studies a lot easier. My goal for the academic year is to achieve at least a 2:1.

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Studying BSc (Hons) Computer Science



Abdul



Rebecca

I didn't know how I was going to pay for a laptop, cope with travel expenses, pay for food and drink, buy the educational books that I needed and pay towards any trips that would benefit me.

Having the bursary meant that I could buy myself a laptop – turning up to university without a laptop made my confidence drop as I thought all the other students would turn up with one and I was the only one unable to afford one. The bursary has also gone towards travel expenses, books I needed to help with my studies and I have been able to get food with my friends at break times and in between lectures.

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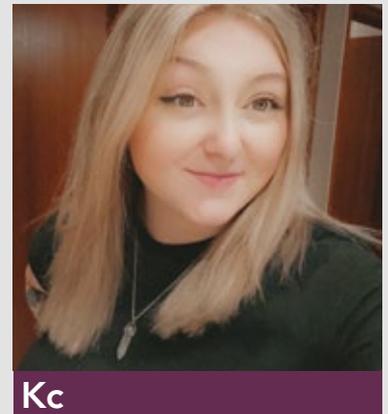
Studying BA (Hons) Education Studies

The bursary money helped fund my trip to Shrewsbury and have an interview for my MSc (which I have been awarded a space studying Stem Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine.) It has also helped me pay bills and for every day essentials like food shopping.

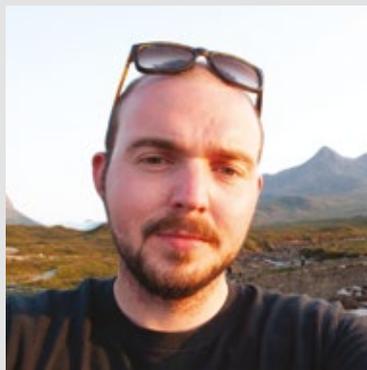
Now I have an MSc to look forward to thanks to the funding for allowing me to travel down to the interview, thus giving me the motivation to continue to work hard currently and do the best I can!

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Studying BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science



Kc



Carl

The bursary has allowed me to gain access to more detailed research from books and articles which has had a great impact on the quality of my work.

My recent Psychological Intervention assignment received a grade of 88% which is one of the best grades I have received so far and this is due to the content that I have been able to acquire. The last instalment of my bursary will be used in my final semester to continue accessing books and articles, acquiring the best research, to ensure the remaining assignments and dissertation will be of a high standard as possible.

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Studying BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling



# Inspired by father

## to help more students continue their education



Retired businessman and property investor, Ashwin Kagdadia feels passionately that everyone should have the opportunity to continue their education.

In 2020 he founded the Ashwin Kagdadia Scholarship with Staffordshire University, which provides scholarships of between £500 to £1,500 per year, for three years, to high achieving students from homes with household income of less than £30,000.

It was an investment in a student flat near to the University which initially gave Ashwin the idea to create a self-generating scholarship fund, creating financial support packages from rental income at nearby Poulson House.

He explains: "I experienced financial hardship as a university student in the 1980s. I was the first in my family to graduate from university in 1983, after reading Economics at Loughborough University.

I received a grant from the Local Authority which covered my rent and study materials, but not much else. I had to save up for a couple of weeks if I wanted to treat myself to a meal out. I was, however, fortunate that I did not have to pay tuition fees. Students now are leaving university with debts of £40,000 to £70,000. Back then, if I had to take on that level of debt, I would never have gone to university.

I think a lot about my father when I think about the impact of the scholarships. Everybody thinks their father is the greatest and I am no exception. He was very wise. He came from humble beginnings in India and he always believed in the importance of education, but he was pulled out of school early to help with his older brother's business. This saddened him greatly. Later in life he excelled as a goldsmith and crafts person, but he always wondered what he could have achieved if he had been allowed to progress in education. All of that affected my thought process when I decided to start the scholarship.

The flat I invested in is non-profit making. All the rental income is redistributed via my scholarship to students in financial hardship. My Foundation aims to support people through education where possible. I hope that with this extra financial help, the students will conscientiously apply themselves and do all they can to become successful in their lives.

**"My Foundation aims to support people through education where possible. Hopefully this financial assistance enables them somehow, empowers them a little and helps in their success."**

Hopefully this assistance enables them somehow, empowers them a little and helps in their success. Then some day they will remember this and hopefully they, too, will become alumni donors at Staffordshire University.

**"Even if one who receives the assistance thinks that way, then it is a success."**



**So far my first year at University has been more challenging yet rewarding than I could have previously imagined.**

I have already learnt so much more than I thought would be possible in such a short space of time. I am incredibly proud of the progress that I have made to date. This has all been made much easier with the bursary provided to me, which I have been able to spend on several books to aid in my learning of new programming languages. Which has truly been a blessing.

With my next installment, I plan to purchase myself a high-resolution monitor for my design and engine work. I am currently working on a very old TV acting as a monitor, so I am very much looking forward to having the extra ease and convenience of equipment with higher quality.



**Michael Challinor**

BSc (Hons) Computer Games Design and Programming



**Kian Bridge**

BSc (Hons) Psychology & Criminology (with placement)

**The scholarship money in my first year at Staffordshire University has provided me the opportunity to undertake my short commissioning course of the University Officers' Training Corps last year.**

As well as both my academic and military progress I have invested into a sporting one too, namely the Staffordshire Stallions University American Football team. Having joined recently I have begun to understand the game rules and put my fitness into practice as a 'running back' player. This has been a hefty investment of over £200 for the sports kit and the BUCS membership allowing me to compete for Staffordshire University against others and is something I look forward to in the foreseeable future.

All these factors combined are meaning I can enhance my time at University which would not have been possible without the scholarship. Thank you.

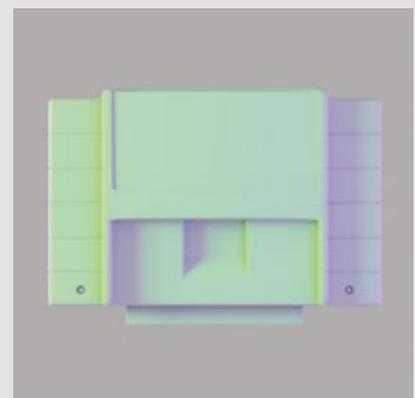
**Firstly, I wanted to say thank you for the scholarship. I have used the money towards purchasing a drawing tablet. I am now finally able to learn how to use industry standard equipment in preparation for the future.**

Now I have purchased a PC I can work from home and not worry about staying over at a University computer over to the next day, and I have been able to get a head start with my studies and get some assignment work done.

Additionally, I needed to study other games for some of our assignments. I have been able to finally buy new video games using the scholarship.

The next instalment will go towards buying new games if warranted. I also plan on purchasing software, hardware and other equipment that I will need for my studies.

One final thing I have considered is obtaining a passport. I wish to partake in internships with video game companies worldwide and use it as learning experience. I have never been able to afford one so this may be my only chance and I can put it to good use. I really want to join the Blizzard Internship programme or maybe even Naughty Dog.



**Nyarai Katsande**

BSc (Hons) Computer Games Design

Example of Nyarai's 3D modelling project work



# Joseph Rowntree Foundation

# Creating lasting impact on poverty

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has made an incredibly generous donation to the Horizon Fund – enabling the University to set up a new Social Action bursary which awards five bursaries of £6,000 over 3 years to qualifying students who are studying the University's brand new BA (Hons) Action on Poverty and Hardship degree.

Through research, policy, collaboration and practical solutions, JRF aims to inspire action and change that will create a prosperous UK without poverty, where more people want to understand and solve poverty, and more people find a route out of poverty through work and a better system of social security, to live in a decent, affordable home.

Sarah Campbell, Head of Participation and Advocacy at Joseph Rowntree Foundation, shares what she hopes the bursaries will achieve:

**“At JRF we understand the difficulties of accessing qualifications, and how living and study costs can be a massive barrier to people who want to take the time out to retrain.**

**It's important to have sufficient time to concentrate on your studies, and we hope that our bursaries will make a big difference for students on this course. Many of these students will have experience of hardship**

**and have the potential to use that valuable experience to create social change for others.”**

She explains: “We really want to ensure there is diversity in the voluntary and community sector and that there are clear entry points and routes into the areas of work that we do, for people who have direct personal experiences of poverty, adversity, or hardship.

This lived experience, combined with the activism and advocacy skills that the degree develops, is much needed if we are to make the biggest possible impact when it comes to ending poverty in the UK.”

She adds: “It's not just about qualifications; it's about having connections and knowing what and who is out there. We are pleased to play our part alongside other voluntary and community organisations and proud of the links being established between the students on the Action on Poverty and Hardship degree and the connections in our sector.

Together we can help to bring the students' experience, studies, and professional skills together to new careers which will have a long-lasting impact on the diversity of the sector contributing to deeper social change.”

**"We really want to ensure there is diversity in the voluntary and community sector and that there are clear entry points and routes into the areas of work that we do, for people who have direct personal experiences of poverty, adversity, or hardship."**



# Ground-breaking degree

## seeks to create activists for long lasting societal impact

At Staffordshire University we believe we have a social responsibility to be a force for change that improves the prosperity and quality of life of people in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire and beyond. As part of that commitment, we have launched the UK's first Honours degree in Action on Poverty and Hardship, which welcomes, and places at its core, vital insights from students with a lived experience of poverty, social inequality and hardship.

This is an activism-based degree, offering students an opportunity to share their direct experiences with decision makers and become involved in policy setting processes. Students are empowered to take action and create change, driving anti-poverty agendas and affecting the decisions that impact on them, their community and wider society.

The University is immensely grateful to The Joseph Rowntree Foundation for awarding five £6,000 bursaries which will support some students on the degree in Action on Poverty and Hardship over three years of study.

Dr Katy Goldstraw is a senior lecturer on the course. She explains: "This activism degree has been co-created with the voluntary and community sector. We are seeking to create a new movement of 'pracademics' who combine practical insight and action with critical thinking and academic skills. We are working with students developing links with voluntary and community sector leaders to create important change in our society and economy.

To achieve this, our students develop through the course in three core areas. These are their employability skills, academic skills, and what we refer to as social capital. This means introducing students to crucial contacts who can become pivotal to the success of their activism, campaigning, funding and employability.

Students build their community conversation skills, support

activism, and actively make a difference in the local community right from the start of the degree. For example, they have successfully applied for £1,500 funding from Health Watch Stoke-on-Trent. This will fund a mental health and poverty campaign, including research into current levels of awareness of support available, as well as planning and running a series of community events."

Action for Poverty graduates will take action and create impact, going on to senior roles as leaders, researchers, campaigners, fundraisers, academics or activists in roles designed to effect change and build communities. This could include local authorities, the voluntary sector, councillors, housing associations, youth service, the court system, charities, or universities.

Entry requirements for the course ensure that lived experience and knowledge of poverty and hardship are valued equally with academic and experiential knowledge. The lecturer to student ratio is extremely high, and students benefit from high levels of both academic and pastoral support.

Dr Goldstraw concludes: "We are actively seeking to build the University's relationships with other anti-poverty activists, researchers, voluntary organisations, charities and funding sources as part of this work. Please do contact Julie Tipping, Course Leader, at [Julie.Tipping@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:Julie.Tipping@staffs.ac.uk) for an informal discussion."

**I found that £1000 was a lot of money. I put some towards a laptop, I bought a printer and some books I needed plus a pair of reading glasses I was desperate for.**

I did put some aside for taxis for when my legs were bad and I couldn't drive so I didn't miss any classes.

We have a new module this semester which includes activism. We will be looking at going out on our own and volunteering and I would like to work with the homeless. I will need more books and the rest will help me through the summer while I am volunteering.



I am really enjoying life at university and studying Action on Poverty and Hardship.

I used the funds from the bursary to buy new books I needed to help with my studies and I was also able to have a few extra days of work so I could concentrate on my university assignments. It really did take some of the pressure off me financial wise.



**I will continue to use my next payment to help towards buying books and resources to use throughout this course. I also plan to use the money to travel to visit the poverty museum in Manchester.**

**Thank you so much for the bursary. It has helped get me started on the first semester. I purchased a laptop and saved some for parking and food expenses at Uni.**

The first semester has been great. I have learned so much about how poverty is much more of an issue than people realise. I think it's vital that we raise awareness to stop the stigma attached to people in poverty.



# Friends Andrew and Fred reunite on charitable mission

Friends Andrew Crisford and Fred Forshaw first met in 1966 as students on the country's first ever Computer Science degree at Staffordshire University's Stafford Campus, formerly known as Staffordshire College of Technology (SCOT).

After graduating, Fred and Andrew's careers took them in separate directions. Fred went on to work in computing for John Player and Sons (Imperial Tobacco), Nottinghamshire County Council and Associated British Maltsters Limited. He then spent 20 years running his own successful computer consultancy business. Andrew spent two years working in computer-aided ship design for the Navy before following his passion for restoring antique clocks and watches. He has travelled the world as a renowned horologist and time piece valuation expert.

Now, after reconnecting as friends in retirement, Andrew and Fred are united in their mission to help create opportunities for the next generation of students as trustees of the ACH Crisford Charitable Foundation, which was founded by Andrew, his late wife Caroline, and son, Benjamin.

The Foundation sponsors our GradEx Exhibition, offers prize money for competitions, and has now provided bursaries to 20 students at Staffordshire University London. Over a three-year period, the Foundation will award £15,000 in financial support to UK home students.

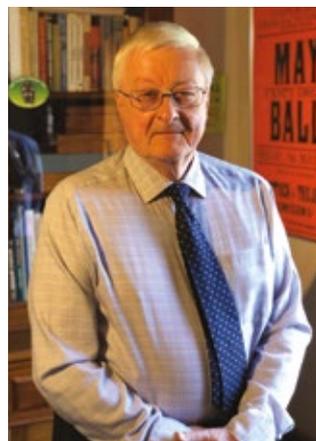
**"Now it is incredibly important to me to encourage people to take up education to improve their lives and opportunities."**

Andrew explains: "I have been lucky to have been paid to indulge my hobby for the last 45 years. Now it is incredibly important to me to encourage people to take up education to improve their lives and opportunities."

Fred agrees: "I have always found that the education I received at Staffordshire was top notch. I was able to find work very easily based on my knowledge of systems developed at university, at a time when nobody else was offering that type of course or learning experience.

"We really do want to help people make the best of their education. Bursaries, even if only a small amount, can be an enormous help when some students are worried and not knowing where their next amount of money can come from.

We are both very proud of the work we are doing with the University and plan to continue it."



Fred Forshaw



Andrew Crisford



With the first instalment of the bursary I used the money towards a new laptop that I've been saving up for. I got the Dell Inspiron 2 in 1 and this can also help for game art as it can be a tablet and a laptop.

Over the last semester I got to learn the basics of python programming which I enjoyed the most as I want to become a software developer and these concepts apply to all languages I want to learn in the future. I am looking forward to the next semester as we will be making websites which is a goal I set myself this year. We will also use UML which I also enjoy as I want to use the language we learn (C#) for game development projects that I will do at home. I've also recently signed up for a football society for our Uni as it has just been set up. The second instalment I will use towards my gym membership and referee equipment for my job as I feel that physical health is very important as sitting down for hours coding leads to a sedentary life. I'll also use the money to buy text books - for example - one I'm going to start reading is Atomic Habits by James Clear. I also want to invest some money towards a game company I'm thinking of starting.



**Ayrton Brooke**

BSc (Hons) Computer Science



**Peter Vladimirov**

BSc (Hons) Computer Games Design (with a placement year)

**My studies are going well. Thank you. I've most enjoyed learning about 3D modelling and the different processes surrounding it.**

I spent the money received in the first instalment of the bursary on a new computer as that would greatly help with my studies allowing me to complete processes such as rendering much faster, allowing me to have more time for other things. During the first semester I wasted a lot of time waiting purely due to my hardware being slow and dated.

My current goal for the end of this academic year is to complete my Semester 2 modules to the same standard as my Semester 1 modules to give me the best possible start for Year 2 of my studies.

**Throughout this semester I've learnt about the importance of Human Resources in esports and how it has an impact as a whole on the industry.**

The main part of the money went towards upgrading my computer to be able to run better and I've updated some software to help me out with completing work and assignments.



**Callum Robertson**

BA (Hons) Esports



# Dr Ruth Thompson Teaching Scholarships

## continuing an exemplary career in education with Teaching Scholarships

Ruth's legacy gift is being invested in students studying to be teachers and we have worked closely with Ruth's husband, Sir David Bean, Court of Appeal Judge, to shape the scholarships created through her most generous legacy gift.

These are the 'Dr Ruth Thompson Global Teaching Scholarship' to encourage social mobility, the advancement of learning and to invest in research into global education systems and practice; and, the 'Dr Ruth Thompson Scholarship for the Teachers of Tomorrow' to encourage more people to take up teaching and targeting those living in the Staffordshire area to attract teachers to stay and work locally.

Please contact the **Head of Development and Alumni Relations, Deborah Sanderson** for a confidential discussion so she can learn more about the type of legacy you would like to gift and how you would wish it to be used, tel. 07766 520395

Legacy gifts can be large  
or small, providing new  
opportunities and inspiration  
to students in your memory

**"I am delighted to hear from those students who have been awarded Dr Ruth Thompson Global Teaching Scholarships to attend the American Educational Research Association conference in San Diego. All of them are on the way to becoming outstanding teachers and I am sure that the conference, added to what they have learned at Staffordshire, will widen their horizons and help with their research."**

**Sir David Bean**



# Donor's legacy wish becomes reality

We feel certain that when Dr Ruth created this legacy this was exactly what she had in mind. Read on to understand how our scholars' lives have changed through this experience.

Attending the AERA conference was a life event that will never be forgotten. I submitted a paper to present as a poster and my successful application meant I was then a part of the conference too. The opportunity to discuss my work with other researchers gave me new perspectives. Listening to researchers whom I have cited in my work was a fantastic experience and the opportunities to network were amazing.

## Claire Copeland

Doctor of Education (EdD)



Claire presenting her research paper

I accompanied the recipients of the Dr Ruth Thompson Global Teaching Scholarship to the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting 2022 in San Diego and saw first-hand the impact the opportunity to attend such a prestigious international conference had on these students. Over the five days the students attended cutting-edge research presentations from American and international academics, were able to meet and network with other researchers and scholars from around the world and listen to a range of international scholars disseminate brand-new education-related research findings. There was also time to explore San Diego together and enjoy some sightseeing in the sunshine. Firm friendships were established; receiving the Dr Ruth Thompson Scholarship has been for these students absolutely life-changing..

## Dr Gill Forrester

(Institute of Education)



Scholarship recipients at the AERA, 2022



Our scholars dining out in San Diego

## Some excerpts of letters sent to Sir David Bean from recipients of the Dr Ruth Thompson teaching scholarships:

I am extremely thankful for being awarded this bursary - this generous support will go towards funding my weekly living costs and public transport to university sessions and school placement, and professional work attire throughout the academic year. I aim to use this funding to also give back to the children I teach this year; my intention is to set up an art and craft club for the children to have a stimulating, creative outlet.

**Lucy**

PGCE Primary (General)

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and your family for honouring the scholarship, which is enabling me to access a world, quite literally, which otherwise I would never have had the pleasure to experience. It is an overwhelming feeling to have this chance to further my academic and professional practice at such an impressive event in San Diego.

**Hayley**

Doctor of Education (EdD)

As a Doctor of Education (EdD) student at Staffordshire University and recently submitted my doctoral thesis, the AERA Conference in San Diego, will further enhance my career prospects as I network with specialists from different parts of the world, who may potentially offer me guidance in publishing my research on completion of my EdD and help me grow both on a personal and professional level.

**“this scholarship has provided me with the opportunity to collaborate with experts within the field of education who could support me in becoming a successful academic researcher.”**

**Fouzia**

Doctor of Education (EdD)

By attending the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference 2022, I hope to uncover new ideas and ways of redressing inequalities in society which can influence people to embrace equity and justice from a young age. Developing partnerships and collaborating with international researchers and practitioners will expand my knowledge to help tackle inequity in the early years further. I am so grateful for the opportunity to engage in global networking and learn from others' research.

**Julianne**

MA Education

I'd like to start by thanking the donors of the bursary for easing some of the financial burden of my studies. The bursary has helped me immensely in purchasing the necessary equipment, such as books, for my studies. It has also helped me with travelling costs to and from my placements. I would like to again thank the lovely generosity of the donors. Many blessings your way.

**Alison**

PGCE Secondary (English)

# Secret donor supports future teachers

## Generous donations from a retired teacher continue to help those waiting to join the profession

She prefers to remain anonymous but has now donated more than £22,000 to over 50 PGCE students, knowing that whilst studying, the bursary helps them towards their studies including materials and printing costs for activities on their placements. Once again, an act of kindness such as this enables us to support our students throughout their experience and help them be the best they can be.

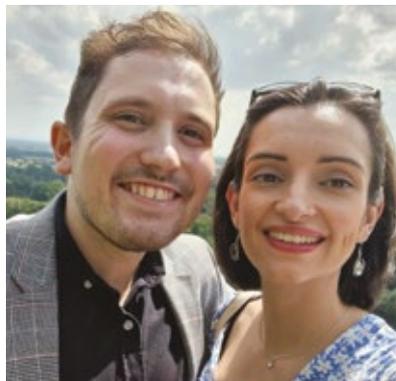
Some of this year's recipients share what their £375 bursary means to them:



**Annie**

PGCE Secondary (Physical Education)

I would just like to say a huge thank you for selecting me to receive and donating this bursary. It will make a huge difference to my studies and life whilst at university and I am extremely grateful for this. I cannot wait to complete my PGCE and proceed with my career in teaching. Once again thank you for providing me with this opportunity.



**Daniel**

PGCE Primary (General)

I'm writing to express my sincerest gratitude for the PGCE bursary. This financial aid will help improve the efficiency of my work, allowing me to maintain a healthy work/life balance. (With a new-born at home, this is a real privilege!) Now I've started teaching at my placement it has confirmed what an honour I have to make this role my profession, the support you give me is making my dream a reality.



**Kimberley**

PGCE Primary (General)

I would just like to say a huge thank you for your generous donations to PGCE students! I don't know how to explain how much your donation will help towards my studies this year. I intend to use the money to get books for my own studies and resources to take into school to help the students I work with.

# Extraordinary times on the NHS front line

## Health and Science students make us #ProudToBeStaffs

In the 2020/21 academic year more than 2,000 Staffordshire students graduated from courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health. Many others have gone on to take up NHS front line roles as nurses and midwives, and many others are studying on courses leading to further NHS roles for careers as paramedics, pathologists, operating department practitioners, pharmacists, physiotherapists, bio scientists, psychologists, mental health practitioners and more.

Of course, 2020 and 2021 were years like no other, with the NHS experiencing unprecedented pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students on placements in the health sector faced enormous risk as part of front-line efforts to fight the disease and care for thousands of patients. Many final year students opted to take up full time NHS roles earlier than planned to help ease staff shortages.

Over 250 student nurses volunteered to help with the COVID-19 crisis, and over 40 of our Biomedical Science graduates and students worked in the Pathology team at University of North Midlands Hospital – providing COVID testing, cancer diagnosis and blood transfusions to our local Stoke-on-Trent community

Staffordshire University, along with others, plays a hugely important role in developing the public services workforce of the future in Staffordshire, Cheshire, Shropshire and the Midlands. We are immensely proud that so many of our final year health and science students volunteered to join those on the front line.

## COVID-19 response fund

The 2020-21 academic year was an extraordinary year for students, who found new levels of resilience to overcome financial, emotional, and physical challenges to their studies, health, wellbeing and family.

Almost 50% of our students are mature students and many have caring responsibilities – meaning they faced the combined challenges of studying, working part-time and home schooling or caring for relatives.

The University was quick to secure and allocate a £900,000 COVID Response Fund to safeguard our students from financial hardship during the pandemic. More than 2,000 support grants were awarded during the first round of funding, thanks to a funding package from the Office for Students in addition to other funding from the University.

As well as helping to pay for any additional technology and furniture, the Fund also invited applications from students who may be struggling with the basics of food and rent. Additionally, the University introduced a rent reduction scheme.

## Amongst those joining the NHS frontline were students who received Horizon Fund bursaries:



**Kerry-Anne**

BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science

"Without this bursary, I would have been having to sacrifice basic needs to cover the additional costs incurred due to the pandemic, or reluctantly having to end or postpone my qualification to take up full-time employment. Thankfully, because of the bursary, I have been able to continue with my degree and cover the increased living costs.

I am not going to deny or hide the fact that the last 10 months have been incredibly challenging. Your generosity and investment in me as a paramedic student will, eight months from now, ensure that there is a qualified paramedic out on the road, capable and willing to serve and protect our local community. Thank you just does not seem enough. These bursaries genuinely change people's lives."



**Tina**

BSc (Hons) Midwifery Practice

"I have just completed my first block of placement on the Delivery Suite at Telford Princess Royal Hospital. I have successfully managed to deliver 10 babies into the world so far! The September 2020 bursary enabled me to purchase some much-needed literature and some new comfy shoes – 12 hour shifts require some comfort. Thank you for the bursary, it really is enabling me to continue my studies and those little extras that I need for my training really do go a long way."



**Lauren**

BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice

"The past 12 months has been a bit of a whirlwind. Between studying for the assignments and working with the hospital supporting other colleagues as a health care assistant, it's been very challenging! I have recently opted in for the paid placement to support the hospitals. Although it may delay my degree, I feel it is my duty to help out where needed. I've been ever so grateful to receive this bursary. I cannot wait to soon be qualified, with a job on A&E. I am really looking forward to it."

Read more and donate to our Horizon Fund at [giving.staffs.ac.uk](https://giving.staffs.ac.uk)

## Key steps taken to minimise current and future NHS staff shortages

**MARCH 2020** 253 final year nurses, 37 student midwives and 8 student ODP's volunteer their services to the NHS.

**APRIL 2020** Our School of Health, Sciences and Wellbeing creates free national online resources to help nurses moving to the NHS frontline, and free training to support retired scientists returning to the COVID-19 frontline.

75 Biomedical Science Degree Apprentices join hospital pathology laboratories to assist with COVID-19 testing across the country - from Hull to London, to Plymouth.

We joined the campaign to alleviate future predicted shortages by calling for grants of up to £10,000 for all students training to take on key worker roles, to remove recruitment caps and to provide fee-loan forgiveness for those graduates working in the professions for a period of five years.

**JUNE 2020** We announce a new patient safety team to embed patient safety uppermost in all its nursing and allied health courses, and develop the first MSc in Human Factors for Patient Safety.

# GRADUATES

## Inspired Film and Video

“It was always on our mind that we wanted to put something back in some way, so we created the Filmmaker Fund for final year students on film courses.”

Inspired Film and Video’s founding members met while studying at Staffordshire University and started the business through the Fellowship Enterprise Scheme in 2006.

They have maintained strong links with the University, including volunteering time to mentor students and judge our annual GradEX event – an exciting showcase of final year student’s work. Of their employees, 80% are Staffs graduates!

Ryan Lloyd, Creative Director at Inspired Film and Video explains:

“It was always on our mind that we wanted to put something back in some way, so we created the Filmmaker Fund for final year students on film courses. It can be an expensive process, so we offer a bursary of £500 to the winner so it helps with things like casting, payment for locations or additional kit.”

The grants are made available through the Horizon Fund and are now in their fifth year, with £2,000 in bursaries allocated to date.

“We work closely with the Development and Alumni Relations team and the School of Digital, Technologies and Arts at the University to organise the competition and set the brief to win the bursaries. As well as providing the funding, we also met with the students to talk through their ideas and offer advice and assistance to help them reach their goals.

Michael McDonald, Business Development Director who came to campus to meet and judge the applicants said:

“One of the reasons we choose to do it in this format is so that the students can experience what it is like

to deliver a professional pitch and get feedback that they can learn from. Even though there is only one winner, hopefully all the students involved enjoyed the experience and feel the benefit. This year’s winner gave me all the information I wanted to know. I knew why she wanted to make the film, what she wanted to do with the money, and she convinced me that it would be money well spent.

“We want to reward good ideas and provide budget for students who have a great film concept but otherwise wouldn’t be able to realise it. Our close links with Staffordshire University mean that many graduates go on to work for us, so this a way for us to give back and nurture future talent.

“We have this fantastic resource of talented film producers literally on our doorstep. It’s important to show talented students and graduates that there is a vibrant media scene in Stoke-on-Trent and a wealth of opportunities for them to stay and work in the area after graduation.”

Bethan Surr,  
2022 winner with  
Michael McDonald  
of Inspired Film  
and Video



# WHO GIVE

## Danny Smith

### Hardship payment drives Danny's commitment to pay it forward for other students.

Danny Smith is a partner in Shropshire law firm, PCB Solicitors and a member of the University's Development Board. He was inspired to start donating to the Horizon Fund due to his own experience as a law student at Staffordshire University, when he became reliant upon a European Hardship payment to enable him to continue his studies.

Danny explains: "I studied law between 2001 and 2005. My sister and I were the first people in our family to go into higher education and money was tight. I grew up in Walsall. During my first year at Staffordshire University, we both lived in student accommodation near to the campus. However, costs were so prohibitive that in the end, the only way that I could stay on my course was to move home and commute every day. Even then, we were reliant on the European Hardship payment to enable me to buy a car so that I could get to university and back.

After graduating, I stayed engaged with the University. I have been on the Development Board for a number of years now. I have always recognised that there is a big gap in society in terms of support for students who are hardest to reach, or hardest to retain once they do reach higher education.

I feel that I'm doing my duty by making my own monthly donations to the Horizon Fund. I had that step up and it's only right that you put back in what you took out. I hope that my contribution will help to remove barriers for anyone who is thinking of giving up. Even if you give a little bit, that little bit adds up to a big collaboration which makes a massive difference."

### Staffordshire Graduate Employability

He adds: "My role on the Development Board is also very important to me. My former experience as a student and now my experience as an employer help map fundraising to where the needs of the students are, and to help strategise

"I feel that I'm doing my duty by making my own monthly donations to the Horizon Fund. I had that step up and it's only right that you put back in what you took out."

the development of the University for both employability and for fundraising. My legal skills can also be utilised by the board in the work we do together.

My time at Staffordshire University helped tremendously with my employability. I trained in my hometown of Walsall, then joined a practice in Shropshire which I am now a third owner and partner in.

As an employer I have really seen the difference in Staffordshire graduates. You can hire any graduate, but Staffordshire produces people who are practical and already have the key skills to start making money for a firm. I can see how the courses embed the core skills to be able to advise clients and put law into practice from their first day on the job."

He concludes: "I'm proud to continue to be involved in the development of the University. It has really kept up with the times. The new Catalyst building is a showcase that demonstrates how collaboration can be a real success and a pathway for our students into employment."



# Sonya Farrall

**Sonya Farrall is the founder of Staffordshire content platform, BabaBaboon and PR agency Baba Communications.**

Sonya graduated from Staffordshire University in 2003 with an Honour's degree in Journalism. She went straight into a role as a news reporter at The Sentinel, before becoming a Sports Editor at the Post & Times Series. Sonya also freelanced for national specialist newspaper, The Racing Post, and then went on to enjoy a career in the horse racing industry for just short of ten years which was part media related. In 2017, Sonya founded her own successful agency and content platform, which she now runs from our incubator office space, The Hatchery.

As a Staffordshire graduate, Sonya enjoys close links with the University and still remembers how important it was to gain valuable work experience and make contacts in the journalism sector. She is a proud supporter of our Future Journalist Awards, organised by our final year Journalism students.

After supporting the event as a volunteer and awards judge in previous years, Sonya and her company now sponsor the awards with a donation each year towards competition prizes. As part of the competition, Sonya donates space on her content platform to publish and share winning articles and features submitted by young aspiring journalists aged 7 to 18.

Sonya explains:

**"I remember how important it is to get that first bit of experience as a student or graduate. It's good to be giving back when you have been in that position yourself. I know just how valuable it is to get your work published or to get some work experience under your belt. I'm proud to be in a position to help make that happen."**

She adds: "Keeping close links with journalism students and lecturers is also a good business decision. It's great to get access to talented students and I have already hosted two work placements for students who want to experience working in an agency environment.

"It's about nurturing those relationships with the University, its students, and fellow businesses in our shared space at The Hatchery. This could bring an opportunity to look at recruitment of students into my business further down the line as the company grows.

"In the meantime, I'm enjoying playing a continued role in the awards, donating time and money to the competition, and becoming a part of the Pathfinder scheme at the University which provides me with a business advisor and a student to help develop innovation in the business.

**It's a win-win situation for businesses and students alike."**



# Meet our Development Board

## Transforming lives and society

Philanthropy plays a critical role in achieving the University's strategic vision and goals. As a Civic University, Staffordshire is committed to addressing societal issues and transforming the lives of the local community and its students through providing philanthropic funds that will help both the community and its students thrive and excel.

Our Development Board was established in 2013 to apply a strategic lens over our fundraising activity and to ensure significant and sustainable funds are in place to enhance student aspirations, improve life opportunities and help students overcome early barriers to education, or in life more generally, so they can experience university and achieve a degree.

Board members are advocates for Staffordshire University who encourage others to support our ambitions through introductions to networks and influential contacts.

Since that time the Board has overseen a strategy which has created opportunities for more than 1000 recipients of bursaries, scholarships and opportunity funds totalling £3 million.

We are immensely grateful to all our donors and our board members past and present – each one has had an impact greater than they may ever know, on some of our brightest and most financially challenged students.

This year we give thanks to our former chair and Honorary Doctor Simon Clarkle DL, outgoing Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Professor Liz Barnes CBE DL, and alumnus Stephen Gould, all of whom step down from the Board having contributed their time, energy, ideas and direction to the Board for many years.

In 2022, we now welcome our new Development Board members:



**ANDREW TRIGGS-HODGE OBE**

Staffs Alumnus, Honorary Doctor, Pro-Chancellor and triple Olympic Gold Medallist, Director of Engagement and Events at London Youth Rowing



**JONATHAN WILKES**

Honorary Doctor, Founder of The Wilkes Academy of Performing Arts



**PROFESSOR MARTIN JONES**

Staffordshire University Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive



**MARTIN TIDESWELL**

Honorary Doctor, Staffordshire University Director of Communities and Commercial Engagement

They join long-serving board members:



**PETER COATES**

Honorary Doctor, Chairman at Stoke City Football Club and Bet365



**DEBORAH SANDERSON**

Staffordshire University Head of Development and Alumni Relations



**DANNY SMITH**

Staffs Alumnus, Honorary Doctor, Solicitor and Partner at PCB Solicitors

Extending a warm  
welcome to the  
new Chair of the  
Staffordshire University  
Development Board

# Introducing Andrew Triggs-Hodge OBE

**Triple Olympic rowing gold medallist, Andrew Triggs-Hodge OBE, is a proud alumnus, an Honorary Doctor and Pro-Chancellor of Staffordshire University.**

Now, in 2022, he joins us in the important role of Chair of the Development Board. Andrew will carry out this work alongside his other commitments including a role as Director of Engagement and Events at London Youth Rowing, a national youth charity, using rowing to improve the life chances of underprivileged young people.

Andrew explains: "I first took up rowing at the University's rowing club, based at Rudyard Lake. My own journey as a student here has opened up some incredible opportunities for me and I am a proud Staffordshire Graduate.

The work of the Development Board and our brilliant donors is led by the principles of supporting each other and creating opportunities.

I come from a small community in Yorkshire. There, from a young age, I saw the value of community and the necessity to support each other. The community gave me challenges – things to strengthen my personality, build resilience and my resolve to achieve objectives.

Since my time in rowing, I have seen the value and impact that opportunities can create. But I have also seen the reality that those opportunities are often restricted to those who can afford them or those who have the network to facilitate for them. In my role at LYR, I have seen first-hand the impact of removing those barriers. The scope for self-development is enormous.

At Staffordshire University, the Horizon Fund plays a vital role in enabling people to remove barriers and to access opportunities through our own community of donors, partners, graduates, and fundraisers.

## Removing barriers, achieving potential

Development Board members are united in our drive to remove logistical, financial, and societal barriers in order to facilitate opportunity for our students. We do not want anyone to be held back or left behind.

There are so many brilliant people out there who are held back by lack of access to opportunities or basic logistical

barriers. It just takes a fund; a donor; an opportunity; to open those avenues and to help facilitate the opportunity. Our role is to make sure there are as few barriers as possible to mobilise people towards greater knowledge and experience, self-development, and the opportunity to achieve their potential - regardless of their financial position.

## Opportunity through community

We cannot underestimate the value of opportunities for students to test themselves, test their boundaries and take a step onwards or upwards to a new challenge. That's what happened with me.

While I developed my academic knowledge and employability through my Environmental Science degree, it was a chance opportunity to try rowing; to try something new, which created the impact on my professional and personal opportunities. This was something I could never have imagined.

In these uncertain times, it is the things that we haven't yet discovered which will help us as a society and population to move forwards. This will have the greatest impact when it is driven by a wide array of people from all sections of society, with Staffordshire graduates becoming a key part of this future talent pool.

Staffordshire University continues its journey to deliver passionate, driven people who can see what they can do in this world.

I'd like to recognise the huge amount of progress and impact already achieved by the Development Board, our valued donors, and the Development and Alumni Relations team over the last ten years. I would like to give particular thanks and recognition to outgoing Board members Simon Clarke DL, Professor Liz Barnes CBE DL and Stephen Gould who have done so much to drive this important work forwards and to level the field for over 1,000 bursary recipients to date."

Andrew concludes: "I am passionate about any opportunity to help people build their spirit, get the most from themselves and seize the opportunities they deserve.

I am hopeful that with a bit of influence and experience, I am able to have an impact at Staffordshire University and on the students who study here."

THANK YOU

# THANK YOU

## Letters from our students

The bursary has helped me financially to be able to afford to travel to university. It has given me the opportunity to gain and develop skills needed to pursue my career as a biomedical scientist. It has also helped me to afford equipment required and has contributed to a healthy student lifestyle.

**Rakesh**

BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science

**I want to send my appreciation to everyone who has made this bursary possible. It has made unmeasured differences to my life. Thank you!**

**Simone**

BSc (Hons) Criminology

All this is thanks to the Ashwin Kagdadia Scholarship. You've kept my interests alive and have allowed me to invest in myself in ways I wouldn't be able to on my own. You are the financial backbone that supports my investments that I otherwise wouldn't have considered, I am grateful from the bottom of my heart; thank you.

**Tobiasz**

BSc (Hons) CGI & Visual Effects

The bursary that you have provided has really been invaluable in helping me to progress through my degree and helped to provide things such as course materials and travel expenses. I sincerely thank you again for the kindness and support you have shown me throughout my degree and I wish you all the best.

**Sophie**

BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology

**"I feel very grateful to have received this bursary and not only to receive financial support but in the knowledge that you believe that my future career is worth investing in has been a huge driving force in my desire to work hard and achieve."**

The bursary money I got helped me a lot in purchasing my workstation, which included my desk, chair, stationery and a top of the range desktop. This workstation has been of a great help it helped me to focus and study better and not relying on the local library one or having to share the one I had with my kids which kept on crashing most of the time. This was such a great relief the day I purchased it, once again thank you so so much.

---

**Ishbel**

BA (Hons) Action on Poverty and Hardship

I just want to firstly say a huge thank you, as I can't express how much the bursary has helped me. I suffer with anxiety, so financial worry has been a huge thing for me whilst studying. However, with the help of the bursary I've been able to buy myself a laptop, a desk and an office chair for my bedroom! None of this would have been possible without the financial aid from this wonderful donor.

---

**Josie**

BA (Hons) Business Management

I can't actually believe that it is coming up to the end of my third and final year! It has definitely not been easy but I have gained so much knowledge and confidence. I would wholeheartedly like to thank you for all the help you have given with the bursary. It has been a huge help with parking at placements, travelling costs and uniform replacements. The last instalment shall enable me to travel to my final sign off placement and aid in the search of a job as a newly qualified nurse. I would like to thank you again from myself and everyone else you have kindly helped.

---

**Janice**

BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice (Adult)

**"I would wholeheartedly like to thank you for all the help you have given with the bursary. It has been a huge help with parking at placements, travelling costs and uniform replacements."**

I'm so grateful for the money I received, I used it for petrol to travel to a placement, and books such as ECG books and workbooks to help me gather an understanding of ECGs. I also used it to buy resources such as thermals to keep me warm on placement night shifts and pens etc. Thank you so much for providing the opportunity to help me succeed further.

---

**Georgia**

BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science

My bursary has again been a great help to me, I have been able to continue gaining experience in my local community. I have faced challenges on the streets helping the rough sleeper's unit and I have learnt much more about mental health issues through Mind Charity. I am determined to persevere and become an amazing social worker, who will change lives.

---

**Catrysse**

BA (Hons) Social Work

# Staff Giving

## Danny Walker



**Danny Walker is an Advice Manager at Staffordshire University Students' Union. Here, he talks about the valuable impact that our donors have on students facing real financial hardship, and how giving just a small monthly contribution can have a monumental collective impact.**

"I am part of the Bursary Board at the University. I am involved in reviewing applications for our bursary schemes and making tough decisions on who should be prioritised for financial support.

In my role at the Students' Union, day after day I see students in crisis and needing support – and I am so thankful we are able to support some of them through the generosity of our donors.

**We have 16,000 students and that means 16,000 decisions are being made about finances daily.**

**'Do I choose to send my child to nursery every day or travel to campus?'**

**'Do I choose to buy a new textbook or do I choose to pay my fuel bill?'**

**'Do I do the food shop for my family, or buy a printer?'**

They are making decisions like this all the time.

The more we can alleviate those problems, the more likely students are to complete their course and become the engineers, police officers, teachers, nurses, paramedics, lawyers, and business start-ups that are needed in Staffordshire, the Midlands, the UK and beyond.

Another important aspect of the Horizon Fund is how it increases opportunity and employability for our students who want to go and change the world. It provides access to opportunities that some students will never have without donor support. It funds trips, travel, research, or job interview costs for students who aspire to be at the very top in their field. To discover the next bit of ground-breaking research at an industry conference, to present on an international stage, or to participate in once in a lifetime volunteering opportunity. All these things make them even more employable or more rounded as graduates.

We want more students to be able to access the Horizon Fund. In order to do that we need more kind donors. That's why I have committed to contributing some of my own monthly salary through the new giving platform which is available at [giving.staffs.ac.uk](https://giving.staffs.ac.uk)

**Just the monthly equivalent to a couple of coffees really can go a long way if we all pull together to create impact for our students."**

**Giving just a small monthly contribution can have a monumental collective impact.**

# Putting the FUN in FUNdraising

We welcome the return of our annual Staff Giving Day and will be inviting our staff, local employers, academic partners and alumni community to join us and participate in the Day, which will take place later this year.

Here are some of the ways we got creative, had fun and raised funds - and you could too!

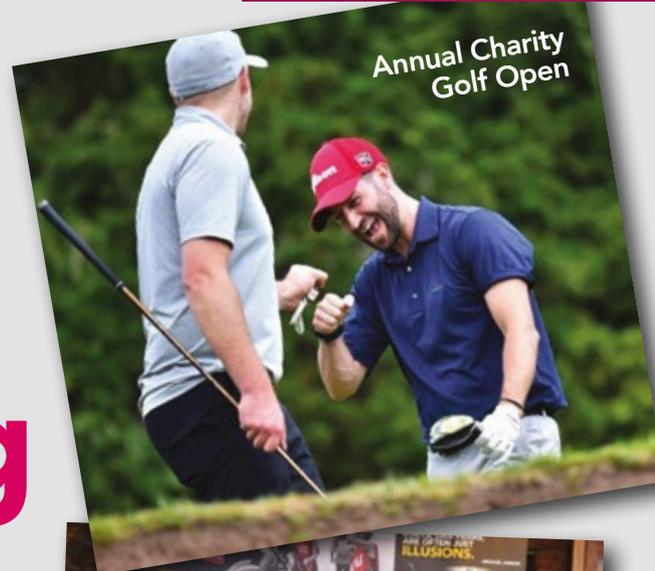
- Annual Charity Golf Open
- Wear Green Day
- Silent Auction
- StaffFOODshire University Community Cookbook

The cookbook was created during lockdown 2020 with recipes from some of our Associate Deans, along with contributions from YMCA North Staffs, Port Vale FC and The Hubb Foundation. There was also a special guest appearance from local poet Nick Degg, aka 'Oatcake Man'.

The downloadable 58-page recipe book includes recipes such as Salt and Pepper Shredded Chicken, Ecclefechan Tart and Bara Brith, among many others - with all funds raised being shared between our corporate Charity, North Staffs Mind, and the Horizon Fund.

You can still obtain a downloadable copy of the infamous cookbook - you just need to make a donation to the value of your choice and then contact us to let us know by emailing [developmentoffice@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:developmentoffice@staffs.ac.uk)

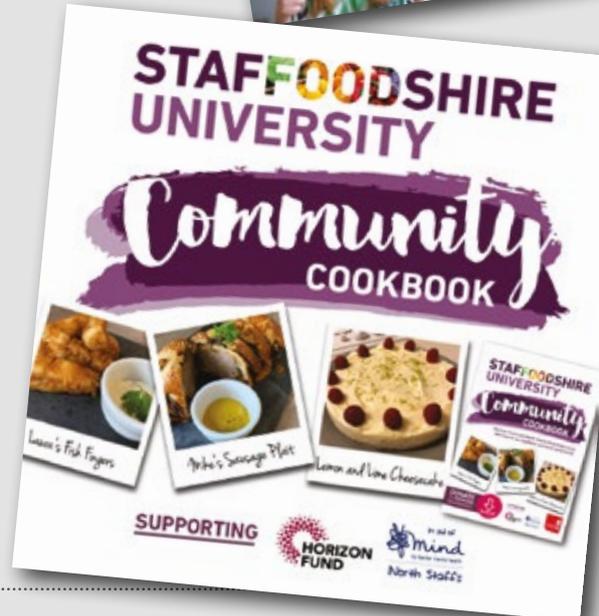
**StaffFOODshire University Community Cookbook**



Annual Charity Golf Open



It's time to sparkle - Silent Auction



# Giving together, creating impact together

The Horizon Fund was created to empower Staffordshire University students in a number of ways:

**Opportunity Awards** – empower students to strive for more than they ever thought possible, by offering life changing awards to extend their learning experience beyond the classroom and normal field of study. This could range from small awards to buy train tickets or suits for interviews, through to overseas attendance at top industry conferences, US internships, international humanitarian or charity work, and more.

Last year, our charity partnership with North Staffs Mind raised £1,500 for the Opportunity Fund.

**Bursaries** – these awards are targeted to students from low-income backgrounds or challenging circumstances which may affect their ability to complete their studies, travel to work placements, or achieve their full potential.

**Scholarships** – are targeted to students who excel academically but do not have the financial means to fulfil their potential.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our staff salary sacrifice scheme and regular donations from alumni and supporters of the University currently raises an additional £9,000 per year for students experiencing financial hardship or requiring additional funding in their pursuit of excellence and opportunities in their field of study.



Visit [giving.staffs.ac.uk](http://giving.staffs.ac.uk)  
for information on becoming a  
donor, sponsor or other supporter

CHANGING  
LIVES  
CONNECTING  
FUTURES

## Small Donations, Big Impact

£1

If a team of 30 people each donated £1, this could give a PGCE student the funds to purchase and create outstanding learning resources to help gain top marks on their course, making them more employable

£2

A team of 30 all donating £2 could buy a student a smart suit for an interview – helping them secure a dream job

£15

Could buy a student in need a backpack for carrying study materials and attending on campus lectures

£45

Could buy a student nurse an essential pair of sturdy, comfortable shoes for their long placement hours

£150

Would pay for a return ticket to London to exhibit at New Designers event for a once in a lifetime opportunity

### What made the difference?

"I'd like to say a huge thank you for the generous amount of money (£250) that you have given to me to help towards my studies. I plan to buy a printer because it will enable me to print my lesson materials at home. I have been having to go into the school on placement at 6.30am/6.45am to print materials and this has meant that my girls have had to sleep at their grandparents all week so I can get to the placement early.

I hardly see my girls during the week and it is very hard. Your bursary means I can prepare my lessons at home now, which also means I can have my girls with me at home every day. So, thank you, you are really making a difference. I can't thank you enough."

**Jody Parr**

PGCE Secondary (Economics & Business Education)

### No amount is too small

Giving just £10 or £20 per month for a year can make a huge difference to a mature student making difficult decisions about childcare. A bursary of just £250 meant that one trainee teacher could keep her two children living with her Monday to Fridays, instead of staying at their grandparents.

### Small donations collectively

= **BIG IMPACT**



# How to get involved

**There are many ways you can contribute time, offer inspiration and support, or financial donations to current and future students at Staffordshire University.**

By supporting Staffordshire University, you are investing in the future of our students, our University, our community, wider society and the rest of the world. Donations to Staffordshire University are funding life-changing bursaries, scholarships, and opportunity awards. Your contribution will help students overcome barriers, achieve their potential, and helps to prepare them for the working world of the future - ready to make a positive impact and follow their dreams to create a better tomorrow.

Visit [giving.staffs.ac.uk](https://giving.staffs.ac.uk) to find out more

## How to give a donation?

Press the 'Give' button at the top of the page, select the fund you wish to support and then follow the step-by-step process.

Or, select the "Horizon Fund" campaign on the main page, this will take you to the Horizon Fund campaign page where you can learn more about the fund and how it helps our students; share the page to your social media; or make a donation!

## What are the different donation options?

- A regular monthly gift
- One-off gift

## Give the gift of your time and offer inspiration

- Give a guest lecture about your industry or career journey to current students
- Become a judge or sponsor – e.g., get involved in our annual GradEx event
- Set a live brief for our hard-working students to meet – whether that's a research project, a logo design, an event to plan or a business problem to solve – it's up to you
- Become an employability mentor
- Consider offering placements, internships or other employability initiatives and activities within your organisation

**FOR MENTORING**, Please contact [mentoring@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:mentoring@staffs.ac.uk) - or for **PLACEMENTS OR INTERNSHIPS** please contact Janet Mortezaadeh Daragheh [janet.md@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:janet.md@staffs.ac.uk)



## Create opportunities through giving

Our new 'Giving' platform makes it even easier to make donations. You can make one-off donations or set up a regular gift, read more stories from our inspirational students and find out how the support they have received has been life-changing! Visit [giving.staffs.ac.uk](https://giving.staffs.ac.uk)

- Offer a bursary, scholarship, or opportunity award to inspire others
- Make a regular monthly or one-off donation – no amount is too big or too small and just £5 to £10 per month could make a real difference
- Leave a legacy gift in your will – legacy gifts can be large or small, providing new opportunities and inspiration to students and society in your memory
- Donate prizes and gifts for raffles and fundraising events
- Take part in our charitable events, such as our annual Charity Golf Day
- Nominate the Horizon Fund as one of your company charities

**WHO TO CONTACT:** Make a donation via [giving.staffs.ac.uk](https://giving.staffs.ac.uk) or contact [developmentoffice@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:developmentoffice@staffs.ac.uk)

**"As a mum and a student working on placement in the NHS during Covid-19, I don't know how I would have done it without the extra help from the bursary. It has helped me at the times when I have felt "Oh my god I can't do this! Thank you."**

**Ashley Williams**

BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice (Adult)



**View our Horizon Fund video**  
to hear more from bursary recipients and some of our donors



# CHANGING LIVES CONNECTING FUTURES



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