Building the Future at Oakham School
Supporting tomorrow’s ambitious thinkers

Oakham School is unique. It is a claim that we make confidently; we know that we offer a truly holistic, ambitious and complete education to our pupils.

It is an education that cultivates the highest possible expectations amongst young Oakhamians themselves of what they can achieve – not just academically, but across the arts, on the sports field and within our communities.

We can be confident, thanks to the recognition of both our Old Oakhamians and the Independent School Inspectorate (see 6, left), who have recognised the excellence of our standards and our vision – to nurture intellectually ambitious, independent and principled thinkers; to foster rational intelligence hand-in-hand with emotional intelligence; to encourage self-awareness and aesthetic awareness.

We are proud of our heritage, and to stand on the shoulders of all those who came before. The foundations of our excellence were laid down long before any of us joined the Oakham family; they were laid down by generations of Old Oakhamians inspired by a shared vision, united by faith.

A vision of a school with a deep and life-long impact on all who experience it; faith in the possibilities of education in its broadest sense.

A vision of fostering innovators and leaders who inspire and support our communities through their example; faith in the commitment and enthusiasm of those who follow in their footsteps to equally invest themselves in the future of Oakham, our students and our work.

We hope you share their vision and faith.

We hope you’ll join with us in securing Oakham’s future for those who follow in our footsteps.

10 Oakham Facts

1. Established in 1584, Oakham School is a co-educational boarding and day school in Oakham, the county town of Rutland.

2. We’re home to approximately 1,050 pupils, comprising 50 % boarders and 50 % day pupils.

3. Pupils can join from 10 years old and progress through our Lower, Middle and Upper Schools.

4. The teacher-to-student ratio is 7 to 1, meaning small class sizes and a highly individualised approach.

5. We are a Christian foundation, but whilst the context is Christian, pupils are encouraged to explore values, faiths and challenges shared by all in society.

6. The Independent School Inspectorate noted our particular excellence in: i) pupil achievement and learning, with a good teaching contribution, ii) curricular and extra-curricular provision, iii) spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, iv) boarding, and v) governance, leadership and management.

7. 90% of our pupils go on to the university of their choice. Of these, 49% choose Russell Group universities.

8. Pupils dedicate 2 afternoons each week to service activities. We were the first institution in the world to achieve 1,000 D of E Gold Awards.

9. We offer academic and specialist scholarships, as well as means-tested support.

10. We have 40 acres of the best grassed playing fields in the UK, and we’re highly regarded for our sporting prowess; approximately 60 of our pupils compete at local, regional or national level.
Three ambitious projects

We’d like to introduce you to three key projects – each with the potential to make a telling and long-lasting contribution to a strong and vibrant Oakham School.

1. The Oakham Music Centre
A new centre for music tuition and concerts, whilst transforming the current Music building into a centre for the Arts, including enhanced Drama studios.

2. Sports facilities to match our ambition and reputation
A range of improvements and innovations designed to build on our sporting strengths and maintain a tradition of success.

3. Improving access to the Oakham experience
Extending the scope and range of scholarship and bursary opportunities available – ensuring we continue to attract the very best, regardless of circumstance.

1. The Oakham Music Centre

The challenge?
The Arts are an integral part of an education at Oakham School. We have a strong tradition of developing creative minds and hands, and an inclusive approach that encourages all – from novice to virtuoso.

Music is hugely successful and very popular; 40 per cent of our students are learning an instrument, and we hold over 15,000 tuition sessions each year. Our students are involved in approximately 80 concerts every year, and half our school enjoys being a part of musical ensembles – such as choirs, bands, orchestras and musical theatre.

We have a national reputation for excellence, and our students excel individually and as a group. Two pupils represented England at the European Youth Brass Competition, where they came second in the Premier section. A composition created by an Oakham Music Scholar won the Friday Afternoons Song Competition in 2014. His work was recorded professionally and performed in front of an audience at Snape Maltings Concert Hall. Oakham pupils also won the Royal Opera House Fanfare Competition five years running (2010-2014). These are just some of the tremendous successes our students have achieved.

However, our existing Music School was built 30 years ago, when Oakham School was much smaller. We could never have imagined the scale, scope of interest and demand we’re experiencing today; and it’s showing. The Music School’s ageing building has insufficient rehearsal and performance space. Its facilities are in stark contrast to the quality of our music and the reputation we enjoy.

Why does Oakham fundraise?

1. Unlike some independent schools, we do not have access to substantial endowment funds.

2. Our Elizabethan Trust, which currently provides £150,000 for bursarial support each year, does not contribute to new buildings, facilities or asset development.

3. Our annual surplus from fee income supports on-going maintenance and building improvements costing the School £1.5m.

4. We established the Oakham School Foundation to help raise the funds Oakham needs to remain world-class.

5. In the last 10 years, the Foundation and our supporters have helped provide a new cricket pavilion, a Faculty of Science, a School of Design, a restored chapel, all-weather playing fields and a range of scholarships and bursaries designed to improve access to an Oakham education.

Why is my contribution important?

By supporting our projects, you’re helping us in many important and meaningful ways. For example:

1. Creating an inspiring learning environment where our pupils are stimulated to realise their full potential.

2. Attracting and retaining the very best teaching professionals.

3. Enhancing Oakham’s standing as a centre for innovation and educational excellence.

4. Creating additional opportunities for the School to strengthen its links with the wider community.

5. Providing opportunities for local children whose parents could not otherwise afford an Oakham education.
It’s a similar story for Drama. There is an urgent requirement for more flexible teaching and rehearsal spaces, for public areas and audience hospitality, as well as a growing need for a range of upgrades to our Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

**The solution?**
A Music Centre that provides a modern and appropriate home for Music, allowing Drama to occupy and repurpose the space within the old Music School building.

This will create greatly improved flexible teaching and rehearsing spaces (both large and small), our first purpose built recital hall, a ‘rock room’ (for louder music!), a new ICT recording suite and a more welcoming hospitality area for our audiences.

What’s more, the improved facilities will provide an attractive venue for touring productions – presenting even more educational opportunities for students, as well as a new potential revenue stream for the School.

**2. Sports facilities to match our ambition and reputation**

**The challenge?**
Our philosophy is that every pupil should enjoy a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle at Oakham, with opportunities to participate in a range of competitive sports and engender a love of sport that will flourish through the years. At the same time, we aim to nurture students with real sporting talent and ability, helping them progress to representative, international and professional level.

It’s a philosophy that’s produced some of Britain’s top sporting talents, and one that’s helped Oakham gain a reputation for true sporting excellence. It’s helped by the fact that as well as 40 acres of superb grass playing fields, we also provide our students with a multi-purpose sports centre, an indoor pool, two all-weather pitches, squash and fives courts, Strength and Conditioning facilities, a fitness centre and a first-class standard cricket square. All of this has provided Oakham with a distinct edge and established the School as a top-flight home for sporting achievement.

However, it’s an edge that requires constant honing to stay true. The last few years have seen competitor schools significantly increase their investment in new and leading-edge sporting facilities, whilst our own efforts have largely focused on the maintenance and upkeep of our existing portfolio of facilities.

If we’re to uphold our strong sporting traditions, then we need a step-change in our approach. We need to invest strategically in key sporting assets that will underpin continued success in the years to come.

**The solution?**
We believe there are a number of areas, which would benefit from investment to improve training facilities.

The benefits are wide-ranging, helping position Oakham as one of the UK’s top sporting schools, providing a broader and higher quality range of options for our students, helping showcase Oakham’s sporting excellence to visiting parents, and helping enhance our beautiful campus.
3. Improving access to The Oakham experience

The challenge?
Each year we award scholarships and bursaries as well as means-tested assistance to prospective and existing students. They’re designed to cultivate both academic and specialist potential. In addition, the Oakham School Foundation, thanks to the support of generous donors, offers a number of scholarships and bursaries.

This is because it’s a core Oakham belief – rooted in our founding statutes – that the benefits of our education should be available to the brightest and best students, regardless of their circumstances. We should recognise and reward those with the potential to reach the highest of standards.

But despite our efforts, reaching out and attracting talent from disadvantaged sections of our communities is a real challenge. The opportunity to have a truly transformational impact on the shape and course of a young person’s life and their contribution within society is immense.

It’s why we’ve joined forces with the SpringBoard Bursary Foundation. Together, we’re exploring and implementing a truly revolutionary approach to bursaries that identifies, encourages and supports disadvantaged young people, such as those eligible for free school meals or classified as ‘looked after’ (when a local authority takes on responsibility for a child, either because their parents are struggling to cope, or because the child is at risk of harm).

With the help of partner organisations, such as charities and local authorities who really know the children, this new approach evaluates, screens and fully prepares candidates for their time with us. Pupils receive a 100% boarding bursary, and are supported throughout their school journey.

We welcomed our first two pupils through the scheme last September. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Oakham School Foundation was able to contribute 10% of the funding required.

But we want to do more. We want to extend the benefits and impact of an Oakham education to more young people through the scheme. By doing so, we not only have a catalytic and far-reaching impact on the lives of disadvantaged pupils, but we also contribute to a diverse, healthy and vibrant Oakham.

The solution?
We would like to support a yearly cohort of five SpringBoard pupils. Our ambition is for the Foundation to contribute 25% of their bursary – approximately £40,000 annually based on today’s fees.

The Foundation has already been fortunate enough to attract pledges worth £20,000 per year. These are pledges from parents and Old Oakhamians who believe in the potential of an Oakham education, and who share our ambition for the difference the SpringBoard bursary can make.

For Oakham School, it’s a difference that leads to a more balanced and socially aware student body, which strengthens our ties and our impact within the local and wider communities we support.

For these communities, it’s a difference that challenges expectations, tackles social barriers, encourages social mobility and increases aspirations amongst young people.

For the young people who join us, it’s a difference that fosters confidence and resilience, broadens horizons, raises aspirations, cultivates new friendships, and enhances academic, university and career prospects.

It’s a difference that transforms lives. And that’s a difference we hope you’ll want to support.