



Philanthropy at Keele

IMPACT REPORT

*Looking back at the positive changes
that your support has delivered in 2023*



THIS IS KEELE

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of our Impact Magazine which highlights just some of the activities that have been possible in our University community through the amazing generosity of friends and alumni of Keele.

The range of projects is inspiring and there is no doubt that the lives and successes of our students have been greatly enhanced by the contributions that you have made.

An important theme this year has been supporting students through the difficult economic situation we all find ourselves in. In some cases, this has been through direct help with student living essentials, but we are also keen to remember that, during times of difficulty, it is important to maintain a healthy level of social interaction through sports and other societies on campus, so the enhancement of these activities is also critical.

We continue to develop our beautiful campus and we are in the process of identifying how the campus may need to change over the next decade to facilitate changing education

and research portfolios whilst accommodating the changing needs of our staff and students. Our plans will emerge in 2024 and we look forward to updating you on these exciting developments.

At our heart we remain a university that is committed to academic excellence within a supportive community. The higher education sector is changing, and we must keep Keele as an innovative beacon that leads the way for contemporary education that delivers a genuine societal impact. We are successfully growing our student numbers to compensate for the limiting funding regime and if we can deliver on our plans, or rather, when we deliver on our plans, Keele will be stronger and better. We want you to be proud of Keele and we are extremely grateful for your contributions to help us achieve this.



Yours sincerely

Professor Trevor McMillan OBE
Vice-Chancellor

Phil Davies Fund

Alumnus Prof Phil Davies (American Studies & Sociology and Social Anthropology, Class of 1971) has long loved the Keele campus and has watched its development over the decades. He was inspired to set up the Phil Davies Fund in support of Keele's beautiful campus environment and, in particular, the Arboretum and National Collection of Flowering Cherries.

Funding has gone towards projects such as: the planting of maple trees around Union Square; developing and maintaining the Memorial Garden; purchasing new and unusual specimens for the cherry collection; supplying picnic benches for the Memorial Garden for students, staff and visitors to utilise; and purchasing equipment and tags to ensure our arboretum records are maintained.

Of his continued interest in supporting the Fund, Phil says: "Keele's beautiful campus provides spaces to think, meditate and create; corners to share with friends, or to be alone. I hope it continues to offer to the Keele community the serenity that I feel whenever I am there."



Prof Phil Davies

Philip Soar Scholarship

Phil Soar is a Keele graduate (History & Sociology and Social Anthropology, 1969) and a member of the College of Fellows at Keele University.

Beyond Keele, Phil is a respected and successful author, publisher and businessman. He has set up these scholarships to provide students from a similar background to himself the opportunity to access the vital funding they need to support their higher education experience at Keele, just as he enjoyed.



Stewart McLaughlin Scholarship

Alumnus Andy McLaughlin (Business and Finance, Class of 2003), current Managing Director of MIS Group, an IT company based in Cheshire, recently returned to Keele University to announce a new scholarship programme for paramedic students.

Reflecting on his positive university experience, Andy emphasised the importance of support systems in the form of family, friends, and mentors. This support enabled him, and his brother Chris, to eventually take over their father's IT company. Now, to pay that support forward, the MIS Group has established the Stewart McLaughlin Scholarship to honour their father.

The new scholarship will cover accommodation costs for one year for a paramedic student, easing the financial burden for a promising student.

"We are thrilled to unveil this scholarship programme in support of aspiring paramedics," remarked Andy. "Paramedics hold an indispensable position within our communities, and we are committed to assisting individuals in realising their career aspirations."

Beyond scholarships, he discussed how the MIS Group will be investigating future work placements and full-time hires after graduation for Keele

University students. "The MIS Group remains dedicated to building a bond with Keele University through recruitment pipelines, scholarship initiatives for students and potentially some joint innovation projects. We hope this becomes a long-standing relationship."

The recipient of the award, Ruaraidh Collar, had this to say: "Having been awarded the Stewart McLaughlin scholarship means a great deal to me. The award will make a significant difference to my life at Keele and in turn what I am able to offer to others. As students studying in the School of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, we are faced with additional costs such as placement accommodation and transport. The scholarship will lift the worry of these additional costs and allow me to better engage with the course as a result. I am tremendously grateful to Stewart, the MIS group, Keele University and the panel who judged my application. I am looking forward to meeting Andy, Chris and Stewart McLaughlin to consider what the scholarship

means to the MIS group and Keele University. Furthermore, I hope that the scholarship can be offered to others in future years."

Director of Paramedic Science, Kevin Armstrong, said, "A great big thank you to the MIS group's generous offer to one lucky student as they start on their pathway to becoming a paramedic."



Chris (L) and Andy (R) McLaughlin

ODA Scholarships

In June 2022, Keele announced official development assistance (ODA) Scholarships to help support the growth of Keele's Postgraduate Research community, enabling the targeted research work of the University's four Research Institutes, and reducing barriers to access.

The scheme sought Postgraduate Research students from countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance and was supported by the University with international fee-difference waivers and enhanced by alumni donations for home fee waivers.

Applicants for the ODA Scholarships submitted interdisciplinary research projects that were ranked and shortlisted. Candidates were subsequently interviewed and assessed by academic colleagues and a final award panel was led by the Keele Doctoral Academy, supported by Faculty Deans for Research and Institute Directors. In total, 35 applications were received, 13 were selected for funding, and 6 have started or will enrol soon at Keele.

the recruitment process was expeditious and flawless, spanning just about a month from application to receiving my offer.

"Keele University, as an institution, has exhibited unwavering support, and I have been exceptionally fortunate to receive guidance from my esteemed supervisors, Dr Rachel Wood and Prof. Elizabeth Poole. I ardently hope that the University will persist with this scheme, as it not only fosters global research but also extends the opportunity to individuals like me to pursue a PhD at an internationally acclaimed institution."



Xiaohui 'Andy' Yu is another recipient and states: *"I'm really grateful for being able to join Keele and the Institute for Sustainable Futures. Prof. Zoe Robinson and Dr Marrit Hammond, my supervisors, welcomed me upon my arrival at the beautiful Keele campus in the spring. I enjoy every minute in my office in the Chancellor's Building, which has big windows and a great view of the cherry blossoms. The Institute for Sustainable Futures covers a wide range of sustainability themes. This truly interdisciplinary scholarship environment is exactly what I have been looking for."*

Chiadikaobi Ihuoma is one of the successful Postgraduate Research students who has received an ODA Scholarship. He comments: *"The Keele ODA scheme has profoundly transformed my life, providing me with a rare and invaluable opportunity to pursue a PhD programme at the esteemed Keele University. There are numerous individuals akin to me, residing in developing countries worldwide, who aspire to embark on PhD programmes but find themselves financially constrained. Surprisingly,*

ODA is aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

"I used to work with an international development cooperation organisation, and I think the ODA scheme is providing overseas students, especially those from less developed areas, great opportunities to learn and study sustainability for the global public good. This will also help the institute to increase its diversity and expand its geographic coverage among international alumni."

His supervisor says: *"Andy has been enjoying the cross-faculty supervisory setup for his research project on sustainability and education. He gets support from both the Institute for Sustainable Futures, which provides balanced attention on both technological as well as human aspects of sustainability, and the School of Social, Political and Global Studies, which inspires him with the spirits of theoretical innovation and application in the real world."*

ODA Scholar, Sivakaran Navaratnam, says: *"My supervisor, Prof. Sorin Baiasu, has been approachable and friendly, readily extending his expertise by offering ample guidance and assisting me on every step of my PhD journey."*

"I am keen on engaging with peers and actively participating in local communities and social events. These activities not only offer an enriched platform to engage with the school's initiatives, but also serve to cultivate meaningful connections with fellow students and esteemed academics."



A postgraduate perspective

Amy Louise Blaney explains how financial support is enabling students like her to showcase research, support professional development and write their theses with fewer interruptions.

"My name is Amy and I'm currently in the final stages of my PhD in English Literature at Keele. I arrived at Keele in 2018 to study for my MA after spending 11 years in employment, staying on to study for my PhD because I felt so supported by the staff and community that has been built here.

"Both my MA year and the Continuation year of my PhD have been self-funded so there have been several occasions where I have been reliant upon the financial support offered by the University and our associated alumni community, to support my studies.

"During my MA year, support from the Keele Postgraduate Association (KPA) Bursary enabled me to attend and present at my first major international conference. Five years later and I'm currently preparing to present a paper to the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Oxford. This trip will also be supported by a KPA Bursary. Conferences like these are vital for

postgraduate students like me because they often lead to publication and teaching opportunities, in addition to supporting our professional development and allowing us to showcase – and receive feedback on – our research. As funding options during both MA and Continuation are very limited, the KPA Bursary is, therefore, an extremely important source of support.

"During my PhD I have also benefited from the support of the Keele Key Fund and the University Hardship Fund. The Hardship Fund stepped in when, during the Covid-19 pandemic, my aging laptop decided to stop working completely. I was able to purchase a new laptop, allowing me to continue with my PhD studies with minimal disruption.

"The Keele Key Fund, meanwhile, provided support for a postgraduate research (PGR) Café Writing Retreat, during which 20 postgraduate research students and 3 leaders (myself

included) went to the Peak District for three days of uninterrupted writing. As many of our PGR students have caring, parental, or working responsibilities, the retreat provided space for focus in a supportive and collegiate environment. Having successfully trialled the retreat with the support of the Key Fund, the Keele Doctoral Academy are now working towards making it a regular part of their funded events offering. You can read more about this project in the Keele Key Fund section of this magazine.

"In 2023, I was honoured to be awarded the Bob Beattie Postgraduate Student of the Year Award, in part because of my work with the PGR Café. The Bob Beattie Awards are a highlight of our postgraduate calendar at Keele and it's such a wonderful way of showcasing the work being done by our existing postgraduates whilst recognising and honouring the contributions of previous members of the Keele community. I'd therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all those who continue to contribute to life here at Keele. As I hope this piece has shown, your contributions really do make a difference to postgraduate students like me, and we are very grateful for your ongoing support."

Keele Key Fund

Now in its 16th year, the Keele Key Fund invests annually in creative, innovative and extraordinary projects that have a positive impact on the student community.

Almost £380,000 has so far enabled 120 projects, with countless beneficiaries across our whole Keele community since it began in 2007. Here are some of the projects which took place in 2023.



Keele Community Meals

In an effort to support students experiencing the hike in prices during the cost-of-living crisis, an elected officer at Keele SU led a project to provide nutritious meal kits for students to cook and share with friends - limited cooking skills required!

The team made 120 meal kits (vegetarian curry, stir-fry, and mixed bean chilli), with each kit offering four servings, and 60 snack packs too - and all flew off the table in minutes. With these numbers in mind, up to 540 students were positively impacted by the project; students learned how to cook nutritious meals and were able to enjoy a free meal without having to spend their own money on expensive ingredients during the cost-of-living crisis.

"I want to thank the Keele Key Fund donors who gave myself and the SU the opportunity to run the Keele Community Meals project to help students learn how to cook and support them during the cost-of-living crisis. The project was lots of work; however, it was a great experience leading it and seeing the positive impact from it. All 120 meal kits and 60 snack packs were gone within 30 minutes of setting up our stall, showing the impact of the programme and the demand from students. The project has developed my own skills in teamwork, leadership, project planning and organisation, which I'm grateful for. Keele Community Meals has received great praise from the supermarkets we worked with, students, staff, and the local community."

Tom Guilbert-Newell, Keele SU Elected Activities and Community Officer 2022/23



Earth Stories Film Festival

This student-led project invited young filmmakers aged 14-25 years to submit their work for an international film festival and competition on an environmental theme.

The Film Festival significantly exceeded hopes for engagement, with over 2,500 film submissions, and grew to a team of 45 interdisciplinary students and 7 supporting staff here at Keele.

"Everyone involved in Earth Stories Film Festival is immensely grateful for receiving the funding and support to turn Earth Stories into a reality. Seeing the impact we have had on individuals in the local community and young filmmakers across the world has been so rewarding and couldn't have been achieved without the Keele Key Fund. I have enjoyed every second of directing this festival and found it really encouraging to see other students from across the university gain as much experience and satisfaction as I have. This project has given me employability skills such as time management, meeting organisation, budget management, show hosting and presentation skills, media production, attention to detail, an awareness of environmental impact, and relationship building with other organisations and members of the local community."

Aaliyah Gibbings-Gardner, Director, Earth Stories Film Festival (and Keele Media with Sociology student)

"Earth Stories is exactly the kind of initiative that's needed to encourage and inspire young people to take action on environmentalism. Being a part of the festival has been incredibly special. I've had the pleasure of working with many incredibly talented individuals and have been so fortunate to see immense creative talent from filmmakers, internationally. It's opened my eyes to the possibilities of campaigning for change - there are people willing and ready to take action on the issues that matter."

Emily Stevenson, Assistant Director (and Keele English Literature student)

The project leads went on to win the 'Entrepreneurial Student of the Year Award' at the Breaking the Mould Awards 2023.

Thanks to the generosity of alumni donors Chris Ensor (Applied Social Studies & Sociology and Social Anthropology, Class of 1973) and his wife, Val Ensor, the Earth Stories Film Festival is running again in 2024 and 2025 with plans for even more community engagement and innovation.

Levelling up Women's Football

Funding enabled Keele University's Women's Football Club to purchase new footballs, training poles, ladders and cones, and is bringing the standard of training to a higher level. The team want to give every opportunity to people wishing to pick up football at university and ensure that they have the best equipment to enhance their experience and safeguard their physical health and well-being.

"Women's football as a sport is here to stay, and we have watched the sport develop on the world stage with the recent Euros and World Cup. We stand proud in creating a positive environment for women and girls to play football. It is thanks to the kind donors of the Keele Key Fund that we can expand our footballing community and bring a safer and more well-equipped club into the new academic year, as well as providing great budgeting skills to our members in spending our money as wisely as possible. Thank you for your support in making sure that football is a game for all. We have loved being able to bring our ideas to life."

Emy Hewett, Club Captain, KUWFC



Sustainability and Climate Change Photo Exhibition

This Keele Key Fund-supported project was a collaboration between Keele Students' Union and Keele University, and celebrated student photography by showcasing diverse perspectives on the critical issue of sustainability and climate change.

All students were able to submit photos, with each needing to be mapped to the themes of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Photos had been taken both locally and as far away as Yosemite and Costa Rica, and all 27 entries were judged by an expert panel. The winning and most highly-commended submissions were displayed in Chapters Café, located at the heart of campus, and were also projected onto the side of Keele University Chapel, to raise awareness of the project.

Through their photographs, students explored the many facets of sustainability, from environmental conservation and social justice to economic development and cultural preservation. Their images capture the beauty and fragility of the planet, the resilience of communities in the face of adversity, and the power of individuals to create a more sustainable future. It is hoped that the images can inspire action towards more sustainability choices.



Alex Newson won first prize

First prize was awarded to Alex Newson, Neuroscience student, who submitted the photo, 'Rivers on the Rise':

"My hometown of Shrewsbury is flooding and doesn't have enough funding to properly support the rising levels of the River Severn. My college has flooded during exam week. At the church my sister got married in, they once needed a canoe to row down the aisle... This is just the way life is there. I saw the extreme flooding in my town and decided to go out and photograph it, in hopes that one day this flooding would be a part of history, and I'd have proof of the state of my town."

A special thanks to all students who submitted their photos to the exhibition.



The new response car will be ready for use in early 2024.

Upgrading Keele Community First Responders' response car

Keele University is one of a handful of universities that has a dedicated community response team based on campus. The Keele Community First Responders respond to emergency calls on behalf of West Midlands Ambulance Service. Since 2015, the team have volunteered over 13,000 'on call' hours and attended over 2,600 incidents within Keele campus, the village of Keele and the surrounding local areas.

All responders are volunteers, mostly students and staff (including paramedic students), and these volunteers use the scheme response car to reach patients following 999 calls, and when delivering basic life support awareness sessions in the local area – making a reliable response car critical to activities. The scheme required a newer car to ensure their vital work can continue into the future, and so this was part-funded through the generosity of our Key Fund donors.

"Without the generosity of the Keele Key Fund donors we certainly would have faced great difficulty in securing the necessary funds to complete the project. Both the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have significantly impacted charity fundraising, so we are extremely grateful for the funds awarded through the Keele Key Fund. Our new scheme response car is almost operationally ready for use and with it we hope to continue to support our local communities of Keele University, Keele and nearby areas for many years to come."

Richard Lawton, Scheme Co-ordinator

The PGR Café Retreat

Postgraduate Research (PGR) students often have other professional and personal responsibilities beyond their research. They are also increasingly working from home, often in imperfect study environments, and this can limit opportunities for collaboration and exacerbate feelings of isolation.

The PGR Café Retreat supported 20 PGR students from across the University by providing them with dedicated time and space to work on their doctoral projects. It included three days' catered accommodation at YHA Castleton Losehill Hall, and combined independent writing and reading retreat sessions with community-building activities including shared meals, board game and crafting evenings, short walks in the local area, and a visit and guided tour of Chatsworth House and Gardens. The project also supported the professional development of two researcher developers, both of whom were Postgraduate Research students.

Feedback from the Retreat has been unanimous in praising the atmosphere of collegiality and the opportunities for productivity. Anonymous comments include:

"The social components - free time/organised yet relaxed group activities - allowed for socialisation with fellow PGRs. It allowed for natural breaks, which in turn provided the time and space for me to reset my energy levels for continuing working and discussing my progress with others, making me more efficient. Sharing in this process was incredibly beneficial and engaging."



"This writing retreat was absolutely incredible. It was a safe space that enabled me to work confidently and efficiently, as well as providing a stimulating environment for me to meet and connect with other PGR students."

"Was super, really enjoyed!! - Having dedicated time to write - I achieved the drafting of a whole chapter - so I was VERY pleased about that!!"

"I enjoyed stepping away from near home/work and driving further away to help me write. I loved how flexible the retreat was, and how there were options for more structure for those who needed a little more push to work."

Retreat leaders, Sophia Hayat Taha, Niall Hammond, and Amy Louise Blaney, summarised the project by saying:

"The project demonstrated the University's commitment to fostering a healthy and supportive environment for PGRs by recognising these barriers and enhancing the existing support offered. Sophia, Niall, and I very much hope that this Retreat has provided a successful case study that will enable the Keele Doctoral Academy to make a case for funding an annual retreat for PGRs going forwards and we would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the generous donors whose support of the Keele Key Fund made this trip possible."

Telethon Update

Our annual Telethon saw our team of 35 student callers contacting over 800 alumni across the world during November 2023; sincere thanks if you received one of these calls. This year, over £106,000 was pledged to Keele's Student Support Programmes, including some donations made to specific funds such as the Keele Hardship Fund.

Our student callers loved having the chance to connect with alumni.

Some alumni kindly shared how much they enjoyed their call.

"Becoming a Caller has given me a chance to show my appreciation for Keele and give back to a community that has done so much for me, and network with Keele alumni who've had similar experiences!"

Zara Jawaid Kalimullah, Neuroscience, 3rd year

"Keele has a wonderful history as an innovative tertiary institution of the highest academic standard and this contribution to students accessing its wealth of knowledge and wisdom, albeit modest, is made with a sense of joy and gratitude."

Andrew Graham, American Studies & English BA, Class of 1984, American Studies MA, Class of 1989 and American Studies PhD, Class of 1994

"I'm really enjoying the Telethon, it's such a comforting feeling to know other people are getting the support and education they deserve through extremely kind donations. Doing this Telethon is also an amazing opportunity to gain more knowledge on career choices open to me, and I love hearing where Keele University has led people!"

Chelsea Oakes, LLB Law, 2nd year



Christmas gift initiatives on campus

During the cost-of-living crisis, staff and students at Keele came up with innovative projects to support its student community over the Christmas period. We want all our students to feel cared for, so staff were invited to donate a small gift to be given to students staying on campus over Christmas or who could not get home for the holidays. Small details such as this can make a real difference to the student experience.

Our Financial Support Team, in collaboration with our Residence Life Team and Keele University Students' Union, also ran several Santa Swap events to support students and the wider community during the festive season. The events took place at the November and December Students' Union Preloved and Makers Markets, and the Residence Life Christmas Fayre in December.

Santa Swap is designed for students with children to swap new or nearly new toys which are no longer used or too young for their children to use, for other toys which have been swapped

or donated to the Santa Swap. Those who didn't have any toys to swap could 'purchase' them by leaving a small donation to the Cash4Kids Mission Christmas appeal, which raised £36.50 this year. Cash4Kids Mission Christmas use cash donations to buy gifts for children across the UK who would otherwise wake up on Christmas Day without anything under the tree, and to support Cash4Kids' other charity work throughout the year.



Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship

Here at Keele we believe that everyone has the right to education and are working to ensure that asylum seekers and students from a forced migrant background are able to access Higher Education with the help of our Article 26 Scholarship.

We now have a total of seven (six undergraduate and one postgraduate) students who have successfully completed their course after receiving the Article 26 Scholarship and are currently supporting a further nine (six undergraduate & three postgraduate) students.

Dear Keele Student Support Team,

I hope this message finds you well. First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support throughout my journey at Keele University. As a beneficiary of the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship, I am profoundly appreciative of the opportunities this programme has afforded me. This scholarship, to put it simply, was instrumental in transforming my academic journey and personal development. Without it, I would not have been able to pursue my dreams, let alone achieve them.

During these past three years, it served as a beacon of hope and a cornerstone for my financial and academic stability. It proved to be much more than just financial assistance - it was a lifeline that enabled me to focus on my studies without the undue burden of financial worries. The supportive environment fostered by the Student Financial Support Team has been another invaluable aspect of my experience. The team was always just an email or phone call away whenever I encountered difficulties.

Your dedication, attentiveness, and guidance were a constant source of reassurance and made me feel well looked after. The sense of community and support I experienced was crucial to my success at the University. In terms of enhancing the scheme, it is difficult to pinpoint specific areas for improvement, given the excellence I have experienced. However, it may be beneficial to continue expanding mentorship or peer support programmes, as they can provide invaluable assistance and create a deeper sense of community among the scholars. These could include study groups, workshops, or even casual social events that allow scholars to interact and share experiences.

Once again, I wish to convey my deepest appreciation for the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship and the Student Financial Support Team. I am convinced that my time at Keele University would have been significantly different, and undoubtedly more challenging, without your unwavering support. Thank you for allowing me to chase my dreams, and I am excited to see how this scholarship will continue to change lives in the future.

Best regards, Yassin Khan



Yassin Khan

Student of the Year | Harriet Scott

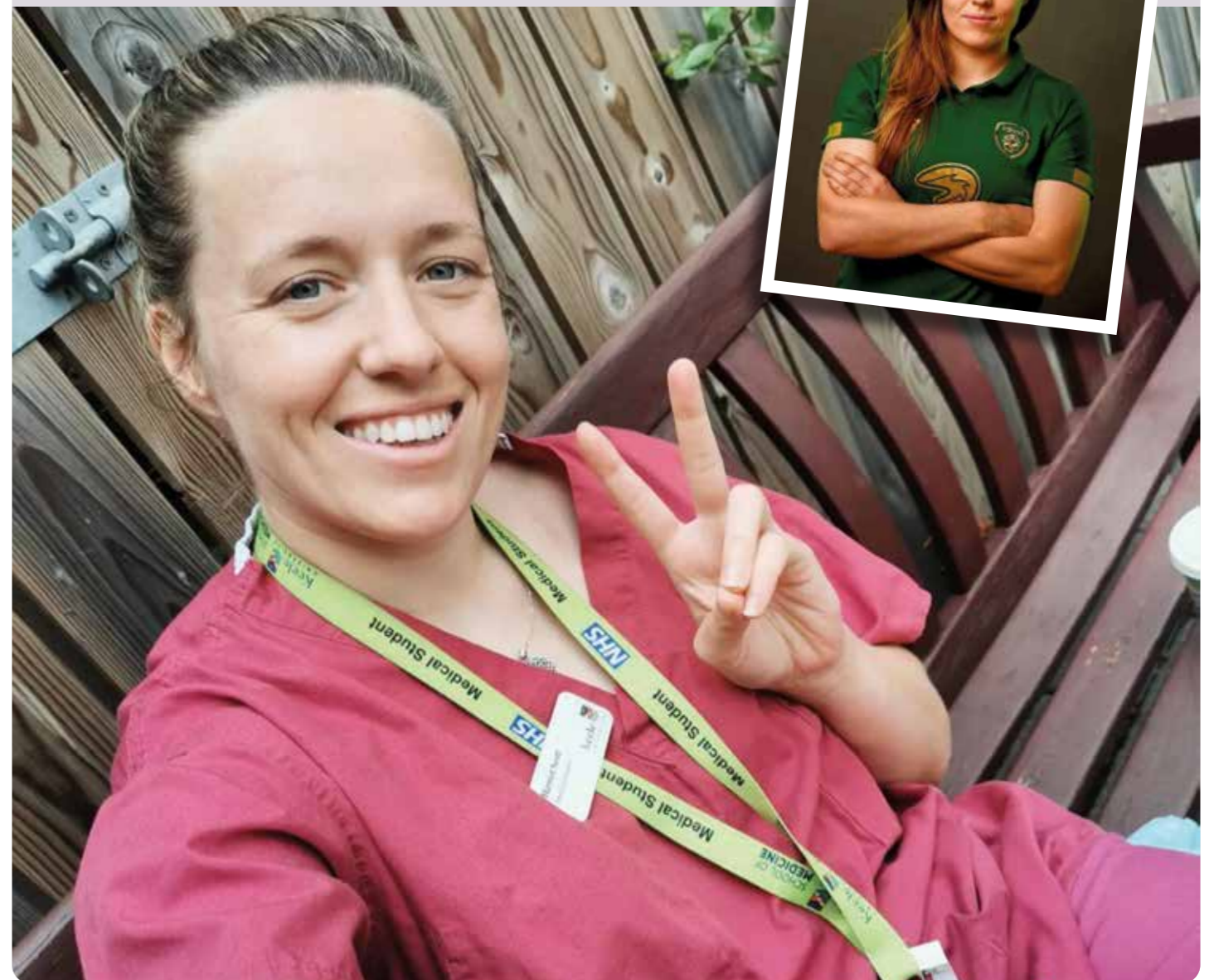
The Neil and Gina Smith Student of the Year Award is open to all undergraduates in their final year of study and is a £5,000 cash award to recognise a student of outstanding achievement at Keele University.

Our 2022/23 winner, Harriet Scott, studied Medicine at Keele, and earned merits for both knowledge and practical assessments throughout her course, as well as being a member of Keele's Talented Athlete Programme, and balancing her studies with her professional and international football career.

Prior to studying at Keele University, Harriet was selected to play professional football for Birmingham City (BCFC). When Harriet was offered a place on the Keele University Medicine course, she took the decision to pursue both careers concurrently - balancing studies, exams, and placements, with training, matches and international tournaments.

Harriet has played professionally in the highest club league with BCFC, but also internationally as a defender for the Republic of Ireland. She has 22 international caps and has won the Senior Women's International Player of the Year. During 2023, the Irish team have made history by qualifying for their first ever FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, with Harriet missing her graduation ceremony to take part!

Alongside her studies and football career, Harriet is also an ambassador for the charities Red Cross UK and British Heart Foundation and has been able to use her growing social media presence to promote other important healthcare education topics, such as raising awareness of breast and menstrual health. Harriet has used sport to engage and encourage women to talk about their health, and her platform as club captain at BCFC to advocate for improved standards, professionalism and opportunity for women, and to inspire future female players.



Leaving a Lasting Legacy

In the ever-evolving landscape of higher education, universities strive to advance their missions and make enduring contributions to the world, and the role of legacy gifts has become increasingly paramount in allowing us to do this.

A gift in a will provides a unique avenue for individuals to leave a mark on Keele, an institution which, in many instances, played a pivotal role in their personal and professional development.

At the heart of the importance of legacy gifts at Keele lies the impact they have on supporting scholarships, fostering cutting-edge research, sustaining financial stability and ultimately ensuring our institution and its students can continue to thrive.

These gifts, often accumulated over a lifetime, signify a profound belief in the transformative power of education and a commitment to ensuring that future generations have access to the same opportunities for intellectual growth and exploration.

**Judith Rowley,
English & American Studies
& Education, Class of 1965**

Many of our alumni choose to make a gift to our 'area of greatest need', which is how Judith chose to make her bequest to Keele. Such gifts allow Keele to direct the funding towards current priorities and where significant impact can be made. Recent priorities include the Keele Hardship Fund and Article 26 Scholarships. Judith, who enjoyed a successful career as an English teacher, is also commemorated with a Memorial Tree in Keele's Memorial Garden, planted by friends in celebration of her life.

**Rosemary Waterson,
English & Philosophy, Class of 1955**

Rosemary enjoyed a career firstly as a Librarian and then as Head of English in a girls' school before embracing a retirement filled with painting, arts and travel. Her life experiences are reflected in the gift she chose to make, and the bequest was directed to the English Department in support of an annual prize for an outstanding student.

**Pauline Hanna,
History & Politics, Class of 1959**

Pauline left a gift in support of Keele's beautiful campus, to protect and develop our landscaping and grounds for future generations to enjoy.

**Peter Lee-Smith,
Sociology and Social Anthropology
& Biology & Education, Class of 1972**

Peter was keen to help Keele students who may be less fortunate than himself and, as such, left a gift in his will to support the Hardship Fund at Keele.



If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy to Keele, please contact the alumni team alumni.hq@keele.ac.uk

Hardship Fund

In 2022/23, we received our highest ever number of applications to our Hardship Fund and experienced our highest ever spend.



720

Total applications



25

Total Crises Support Hardship Fund awards



£248,741

Total Hardship Fund provided to students

Impact Survey results

72.1%

Agreed my award enabled me to focus on my studies

74.5%

Agreed my award reduced my stress and anxieties

67.4%

Agreed my award improved my university experience

69.8%

Agreed my award helped me to become more financially stable

85%

Successfully completed academic year



Jason Howlett, GivEnergy CEO

GivEnergy 850 Learning Lab

In a brand-new initiative, GivEnergy, a supplier of premium battery energy storage systems, is funding an immersive university experience at Keele as part of a new summer school scheme in 2024.

The scheme, which is being run by Higher Horizons in a partnership with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council as part of their 850th anniversary, will focus on supporting children from specific schools in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

It will see 85 students in Year 10 at school go on a two-day summer school residential at Keele University in 2024, 'immersing' students in a real-life campus experience.

Simon Tagg, Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, said: "A key part of the anniversary celebrations is to look forward by creating a lasting legacy economically, culturally and educationally, and it has been agreed to use the world-class university facilities on our doorstep to shape the future by actively encouraging an interest in young students for engineering careers in green energy."

Students will take part in a bespoke annual residential course at Keele University, the 'GivEnergy 850 Learning Lab', to take advantage of both GivEnergy and Keele's expertise in sustainability and green energy.

The scheme will be funded by GivEnergy, as part of the company's continued investment in education and the community. The organisation wishes to encourage the next generation of engineers developing advanced technology to come from local schools and colleges.

Jason Howlett, GivEnergy CEO, said: "At GivEnergy, we're committed to using our resources as a force for good. Education and giving young people a chance are core to this commitment, sitting at the heart of our founder's philosophy."

"Funding the GivEnergy 850 Learning Lab is enormously rewarding for us. Supporting young people who have indicators of socio-economic disadvantages is a cause we're proud to get behind. We hope that, working alongside Keele University, the immersion in a real-life campus experience will foster a sense of self-confidence that university education is attainable for all."

"As Newcastle-under-Lyme celebrates its amazing 850-year legacy, we're delighted to continue leaving our own legacy of giving back."

Ant Sutcliffe, Associate Director, Higher Horizons, said: "We are delighted to be partnering with GivEnergy on what will prove to be a really innovative and engaging two days for some of the young people of Newcastle-under-Lyme. We will not only be celebrating 850 years of the borough, but celebrating their talents, too. We already have so many fun activities planned for the residential trip."

The event will be free of charge, funded by GivEnergy and delivered by Higher Horizons at Keele University. The activities will include exploring clean energy with Keele academic staff and GivEnergy, computing workshops and more.

Lauren Huss, Head of Alumni and Supporter Engagement at Keele University, said: "Keele is delighted to help facilitate this initiative. GivEnergy are demonstrating the impact philanthropic support from local businesses can have on nurturing young talent within the borough."

Find out more about GivEnergy:

giveness.co.uk

giveducation.co.uk



Spotlight on... Cost-of-living support for students

With the cost-of-living crisis, students are needing support more than ever. Here are just some of the initiatives and packages our students can access.

Funds and food vouchers for students in urgent financial need

In addition to our existing £2.1m Keele Access & Success Fund and Bursary Budget (which provides funding to students in targeted groups within our Access & Participation Plan), we also have a Hardship Fund of £184,000 for 2023-24. This fund normally provides a 60% grant towards costs for eligible students who are in urgent need of financial support, but we have increased this contribution of assessed funding need to 100% and increased our maximum allocation to £2,500.

We also provide supermarket vouchers for students who are in urgent financial need, and we have increased the number of vouchers that are available.

 **£184,000 of Hardship Funding available this year**


Financial support and advice

In addition to the above, our students have access to internal and external advice and support, including via our Student Assistance Programme; drop-in and online advice services with specialist staff; and a new referral system in place with Step Change for students facing problems with debt.

Student employment and exceptional circumstances

We understand that juggling work and study can be difficult, especially when students need to work more hours to increase their earnings. As such, our new 'exceptional circumstances' process allows students to access a seven-calendar-day extension to coursework up to three times per semester. No evidence is required for students to access this, and it is in place to ensure students have the flexibility to balance study with other commitments, such as paid work. This is in addition to the option to submit a full exceptional circumstances request, with evidence, to access another assessment opportunity, if a student has been significantly affected by external factors.


We also provide a Support to Study scheme. This allows students to work with their School and Student Services if they are struggling to engage with their studies due to external factors, and it is in the best interests of the student.

 **Coursework extensions provide flexibility to balance study and paid work**

Providing on-campus spaces, facilities and evening activities

The University offers many inclusive social and extracurricular activities that are delivered in warm spaces, including board games nights, lunchtime hang-outs at Keele Chapel, and wellbeing and craft activities in various locations on campus. We are also developing a skills programme that will help students to learn key skills that will aid their wellbeing and their wallet, including cookery classes, money saving resources and make-do-and-mend sessions.

There are a number of other events such as film nights and quizzes, in addition to spaces that are already open and warm such as the Library and Chapel. Keele Students' Union and Keele Postgraduate Association also offer events and spaces for students to use.

 **Inclusive social and extracurricular activities**


Improved free Wi-Fi and access points - on campus and beyond

We're making improvements to the Wi-Fi around campus to ensure there is always a free, strong, and secure wireless connection at Keele. Students can also access free internet through Eduroam at various locations including the Royal Stoke University Hospital, the County Hospital in Stafford, and across Staffordshire Libraries. Eduroam is also available across most UK university campuses and some college campuses worldwide.

Affordable food on campus

For those studying on campus, we have a range of affordable food offers in our Food Court, located in the Chancellor's building, available all year round.

We have clearly labelled the best value items on the menu with a 'Value Meal' icon, which includes jacket potatoes from £3, a salad box from £3, soup and a buttered role for £1, and, for breakfast, we offer coffee and a pastry for just £1 too. All students can also help themselves to free tea and coffee within Keele Chapel's kitchen.

 **Free tea and coffee in Keele Chapel's kitchen**

Subsidised bus travel

The 25 bus route that serves the Keele campus, and all other routes within the Potteries area, are now subsidised by the Government, and as such there is a daily "Smart" ticket for travel anywhere in the Potteries area (which includes Keele and Newcastle-under-Lyme).

However, we appreciate that not all of our University community live within the Potteries area and therefore the subsidised Keele Key Bus Ticket continues to operate for those who need to travel to Keele from areas such as Crewe and Nantwich.

Warm and welcoming library facilities

Our Library has a wide range of resources available 24 hours a day on campus in our warm and welcoming space. We also offer e-resources which can be accessed remotely without having to travel to campus.

Free TV and films

Students can watch free films or TV series via the services 'Box of Broadcasts' and 'Kanopy'. These provide access to an unrivalled selection of Freeview, academic and cultural content.

In addition, the Library has introduced Libby - a new range of magazines, books and audio books for study and leisure. These resources are available to all users of the Library.

Free laptop loans

We also provide laptops that can be loaned for the day or on a four-week loan if required. The laptops are loaded with all the software students need to carry out their studies including some accessibility software.

 **Free four-week laptop loans**

DENISE
COATES
FOUNDATION

Denise Coates Foundation Scholarship

In 2023, we were able to provide 100 students with a £1,500 bursary, funded by the Denise Coates Foundation.

Here are some quotes from student recipients of the award.

"My parents' income is low, and the cost of living is so high, that they are unable to help me with any financial issues. I also commute to university every day and that's very costly. This scholarship will allow me to spend money on textbooks and any additional resources I need for my course so I can get the best level of education possible and succeed in my course."

"The funds from this scholarship will benefit my progression in my degree including the purchase of course material to support assessments and hopefully aid my achievement of the best possible grades. As a mature student, returning to education full-time has been financially challenging, especially with the rising cost of living, therefore I believe the scholarship will support my progression throughout my first year and relieve some of the financial burden faced."

"This scholarship is a vital resource that can help me achieve my academic and career goals without the financial burden of tuition fees, books, and other expenses. Pursuing higher education can be a costly endeavour and scholarships provide a means for me to pursue my passions and achieve my full potential. Receiving a scholarship not only provides me with financial support, but it is also a source of motivation and recognition for my academic achievements."

"I am a hard-working student who loves the course that I have chosen to study. Learning about psychology and how people think and feel, and the challenges that some people face, is very interesting. Learning criminology and why people commit crime and how rehabilitation helps people to turn their life around is very rewarding. I am the first person in my family to go to university and I feel very lucky to be at Keele University, but working to support my family as well as studying can be very challenging. This scholarship enables me to have a bit of money that I can use to put towards my education rather than relying on family members."

"Being from a deprived area within Stoke on Trent, I have incurred challenges throughout my academic journey, from high school to university. Some challenges I've faced within my schooling would be that, firstly, enrolling into university, and being the first in my family to do so, is an achievement I never thought was possible; additionally financial support regarding academic material and travelling to university are struggles I have faced, and although I am able to reach out to family for financial support, this is limited. This scholarship helps further my studies, as it will allow me to buy more academic textbooks, cover transport to university, and limit the burden of worrying about how to budget. This scholarship would enable me to work towards my goal of becoming a chartered barrister and support me on my journey to doing so. Education has always been a priority of mine and therefore I believe this scholarship would positively impact my studies, and also help me to progress to my future goals."

"Paying for university has been difficult for me as a student from a low-income family. Despite my hard work in high school and sixth form I was unable to finance my tuition, books, and other expenditures. The scholarship would assist me in overcoming these financial obstacles and allow me to focus entirely on my education."

"Physiotherapy is my passion, and I feel that the scholarship will allow me to make significant contributions to it. I am confident that with this assistance, I will be able to fulfil my academic and professional goals while also making a meaningful contribution to my community. Furthermore, the scholarship would allow me to partially support myself, easing the financial burden on my family, especially amid the current cost of living crisis. In conclusion, receiving this scholarship is a turning point for me, both in terms of my education and my future. I am motivated to make the most of this chance and contribute back to my community in the future."



To contact us or keep up to date on the latest news and events from Keele, please get in touch, or follow us on social media:

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