

# Enduring Excellence

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Honouring Our Past, Creating Our Future



RBAI FOUNDATION



## Enduring Values

**At the formal opening of the school in 1814, one of the founders, Dr. William Drennan, declared that its primary purpose was 'to diffuse useful knowledge, particularly among the middling orders of society, as one of the necessities rather than of the luxuries of life.'**

Over 200 years later, RBAI remains at the forefront of education in Northern Ireland, delivering an educational experience which prepares young men to fulfil their potential, regardless of race, religion or socio-economic background. Through an ambitious academic development plan, RBAI is shaping future leaders and innovators who will make a positive contribution to society.

To ensure RBAI continues to provide a first-class educational environment in the heart of Belfast and an education which remains accessible to all, the Board of Governors is committing £20m over five years to fund a transformative bursary programme and a new South Wing for the campus, which constitutes the largest capital investment in the history of the School.

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**At a pivotal moment in our history, the support of alumni, parents and friends of the School will be critical, helping us raise £2.5 million to deliver two strategic priorities:**

**A Transformative Bursary Programme** – at a time of economic uncertainty for many families, the provision of bursaries is central to RBAI's ethos and will ensure that no eligible pupil loses the opportunity of an education at RBAI.

**The South Wing** – the construction of this new world-class facility will secure the future of RBAI as a centre of academic excellence that supports the educational needs, growth and development of 1,100 pupils and staff.

## Social Mobility

**Education plays a crucial role in social mobility, particularly given evidence of low educational aspiration and attainment amongst boys from less advantaged backgrounds.**

Whilst our fees remain at a fraction of those charged by public schools offering a similar pupil experience in Great Britain, some parents of prospective pupils and those already at the School have difficulty funding their son's education.

By removing financial barriers, the RBAI Bursary Programme transforms the future trajectory for pupils from less advantaged backgrounds, having an immeasurable impact on their future lives. A vibrant bursary programme reinforces our founding values, ensuring RBAI remains a diverse and inclusive educational environment.



## Buildings Designed For A Different Era

Teaching and learning styles are constantly evolving, while the use of technology is rapidly advancing. Moreover, a positive learning environment is critical to pupils' mental health and wellbeing.

RBAI is restricted by buildings designed for a very different era, as was highlighted by an extensive review of the School's estate.

- Classrooms in the 1920's W Block no longer meet the Department of Education space standards and are not fit for purpose.
- The swimming pool which was built in the 1960s and saw over 12,000 individual usages each year, was closed in 2024 due to unsustainable repair costs.
- The refurbishment of the 1950s dining hall, which serves more than 700 boys daily, has been deemed unviable.
- COVID demonstrated that high quality internal and external spaces are essential for the wellbeing of pupils and staff.
- Creating a new entrance at the rear of the campus will allow RBAI to benefit from significant improvements to the surrounding area, including the new Belfast Grand Central Station and proposed Weavers Cross redevelopment directly behind the School.

## A Campus For Future Generations

Construction of the new South Wing will provide the necessary infrastructure to support the educational needs of 1,100 pupils and staff, securing the School's future as a fully integrated city centre school.

Plans include 15 general classrooms, a drama suite, a 25m swimming pool, a multi-purpose dining hall, a boardroom suite and the development of landscaped zones to improve pupil and staff wellbeing.

Near Zero Carbon development will see energy inefficient buildings replaced with new infrastructure, significantly reducing the School's running costs and carbon footprint.

Whilst facilitating the redevelopment of the site involves the demolition of some existing school infrastructure, the iconic Soane Building and North Wing will be enhanced by high quality buildings designed to be adaptable and flexible in meeting the needs of evolving curriculum requirements.

Thousands of RBAI pupils will benefit from this investment in the coming decades and it will play an important part in helping us prepare future leaders and innovators.





# Why Your Support Is Needed

**Whilst RBAI receives funding towards teaching and learning, we do not receive any capital support towards the upkeep of the school estate.**

The fees paid by parents fund the upkeep of the buildings and school environment. They also support the provision of an enviable range of sports, societies and other co-curricular activities.

Since 2012, the Board of Governors has committed more than £10 million through a rolling capital upgrade programme, including restoring the Soane Building, an extensive refurbishment of Science facilities and the opening of a new Centre of Innovation.

The Christ Church Library and ICT Centre, funded through the Millennium Campaign (1997-01) and refurbished Science laboratories and new Centre of Innovation, funded through the Excellence For All Campaign (2018-22), are a testimony to Instonian philanthropy, benefitting hundreds of boys every day.

Whilst the Board of Governors currently provide means-tested bursaries for up to 10% of the pupil population, demand is growing year on year, placing increased pressure on the school budget. Support from the Instonian community is vital to ensuring that no eligible pupil is denied the opportunity of an RBAI education.



## Donor Recognition

Every gift to the School will benefit future generations of pupils and is deeply appreciated. Donors will be acknowledged in a number of ways unless they wish to remain anonymous:

Gross Gift Amount	How We Will Recognise Your Support
£100,000+	Governors' discretion
£50,000+	Room naming opportunity & individually numbered and signed school print
£25,000+	Individually embroidered school crest & invitation to select school events
£10,000+	Differentiated listing on all signage and in publications
£1,000+	Personalised pavoiur & listing in publications

## Tax Efficient Giving

RBAI is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (Charity Number 108024), meaning all gifts from UK taxpayers are eligible for gift aid. Higher rate taxpayers can reclaim tax against their giving, as illustrated below.

Gross Value to School (including GiftAid)	Value of Gift at point of Donation (25% tax payer)	Net Cost of Gift following relief (40% Tax Payer)	Net Cost of Gift following relief (45% Tax Payer)
£1,000	£800	£600	£550
£10,000	£8,000	£6,000	£5,500
£25,000	£20,000	£15,000	£13,750
£100,000	£80,000	£60,000	£55,000

Donors in the USA can give tax efficiently via the British Schools and Universities Foundation ([www.bsuf.org](http://www.bsuf.org)), ensuring they receive a 501c receipt, whilst 100% of the gift reaches RBAI.

Donors in other countries should contact the RBAI Foundation Director to discussed tax-efficient contributions.

# Our Mission at RBAI

**"To offer exceptional learning and enrichment, which enables every boy to flourish academically, physically and socially, preparing them to make a positive contribution to society."**

For more information, please contact:  
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The Royal Belfast Academical Institution is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (Charity Number 108024).

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