A gift in your Will
Securing our Future

Those of us who have benefited from the Blundell’s experience know how enriching time at the school has been, and how it has shaped our lives thereafter. There can surely be no better way to show our gratitude than to seek to ensure that the same experience will continue to be open to future generations.

Blundell’s rich academic, sporting, cultural and social programme gives pupils a unique opportunity to develop the skills and qualities on which their futures will depend. We believe that an all-round education not only serves individual development but is also increasingly valued within the world of work, where teamwork, imagination and service are central to many of today’s most successful enterprises.

The school is thriving and pupil numbers are buoyant as an increasing number of parents become aware of the excellent breadth of opportunities that we offer. Although we are successful we are not complacent and continuous improvement is essential. For this to happen we need your support.

Blundell’s was established as the vision stemming from the generosity and foresight of Peter Blundell himself, who left most of his vast estate to found a school which has grown into the School that still carries his name today. For over 400 years Blundell’s has given several thousands of boys and girls the best start in life.

For many, the opportunities for making donations in their lifetime are very limited. A gift in your will can provide a more suitable opportunity to make a contribution to the school and help secure its future for generations to come.
Types of Legacy

**Residuary** – this is the value remaining after all other bequests, fees and debts have been paid. You can leave all or a portion of your residuary estate to Blundell’s. It will therefore not be affected by inflation. All gifts large or small make a difference perhaps consider 1% of your estate if at all possible, or perhaps a greater figure if your circumstances allow.

**Pecuniary** – You can leave a set amount of money to Blundell’s. You may wish to ask your solicitor about linking it to inflation so that it retains its value over the years.

**Specific** – A specific bequest (or a bequest in kind) could be stocks and shares, land or other property or chattels.

**Reversionary** – A reversionary bequest is one which allows named persons to benefit from assets during their lifetimes, after which the assets are transferred to the ultimate beneficiary.

**Substitution** – Testators can provide for the eventuality that their named dependents do not survive them by making a conditional bequest to other beneficiaries, perhaps including Blundell’s.

**Deed of Variation** – If you become a beneficiary of someone else’s will, you may wish to consider transferring the whole or part of that inheritance to Blundell’s using a deed of variation. The value thus transferred would be exempt from the inheritance tax which would otherwise have been payable out of the estate in respect of that value.

**In Memoriam Gift** – An immediate gift, this can be set up as a fund in remembrance of a loved one. Many individuals have established ‘In Memoriam’ funds for providing bursaries, prizes, a bench or a tree on the school campus. Please talk to the Development Office for more opportunities about making an ‘In Memoriam’ gift.

**Investment Bonds** – There are a wide range of investment bonds available which allow growth in capital, the possibility of income from the bond and life cover. The gift of the life cover upon death can then be made to the School without any tax liability. Bonds can provide a very tax effective means of providing an income and making a tax effective charitable gift. It is strongly recommended that an Independent Financial Adviser is consulted before taking out a bond and that a lawyer advises on the appropriate wording of a legacy/bequest.

**Life Assurance** – A final suggestion is to take out a Life Assurance policy with Blundell’s School as the named beneficiary. In this way, for a very modest premium, you can ensure substantial benefits for the School.

It is of course, also possible to combine one or more of the above options. The Development Office is more than happy to discuss the relevant options.
In recent years, much of Blundell’s fundraising focus has been on ensuring that deserving pupils receive financial support. Like many of the UK’s premier independent schools, Blundell’s does not have a large endowment fund that can be directed towards attracting the strongest candidates regardless of their means. The School’s objective is to provide any pupil with the ability and determination to secure a place at Blundell’s, the opportunity to attend, regardless of parental income.

Whilst bursarial funding is one of Blundell’s top priorities, many donors choose to support other projects. In particular, the funding for capital improvements is essential; gifts to Blundell’s have come in all types and sizes. A gift from Dr Hay (P 44-49) allowed significant developments within the Library; the School also has ambitious and imaginative plans to enhance its facilities in the future as and when funding is available.

Blundell’s has been a fortunate recipient of legacies from generous members of the School Community and we are grateful to those who remember Blundell’s in their will regardless of the size of their gift. Together these gifts make a real and lasting difference.

“The most precious investment is that which is for the benefit of future generations. Peter Blundell saw this over 400 years ago and it gives me pleasure to follow his lead and that of many other benefactors of this fine and ancient school.” Andrew Murfin (SH 58-63)
Recognition

Making a ‘Gift in your Will’ is essentially a private matter, but it would be helpful to the School to know that you have done so. Accordingly it gives us the opportunity of showing our appreciation and thanking benefactors during their lifetime. We recognize that making a will is an extremely personal matter, and of course we would guarantee anonymity and respect privacy.

To honour those who have helped in the past and in recognition of those in the present who have made a pledge for a gift, regardless of amount, the 1604 Society was established. Individuals who inform us of their intention to make a gift in their wills automatically become members of the society or can remain completely anonymous if so wished. In order to recognize and thank members and their partners appropriately, you will be invited to an annual event as a member of the 1604 Society; in this way, members who wish to do so will be kept up to date with the School’s progress and to comment on future plans.

What Next

It is our hope that you will consider Blundell’s School if you choose to leave a gift in your will. In this way, you will establish a bond with Blundell’s that will live on in perpetuity. Blundell’s is a registered charity. As such, your legacy to Blundell’s may reduce the amount of inheritance tax due on your estate.

Making a gift in your will to Blundell’s is quite straightforward. If you have not yet made a will please consider contacting your solicitor for advice.

If you have already made your will and just want to make an alteration to it, please complete the codicil form which is enclosed. It is strongly suggested that you arrange for this codicil form to be witnessed in the presence of your solicitor.

If you have already made a gift naming Blundell’s as a beneficiary and are happy to inform us of your intention to pledge, please let us know by completing the confidential Gift in Your Will pledge form which is enclosed and return it to us using the freepost system provided. This will allow us to acknowledge your support.

“Thinking in centuries must have been in Peter Blundell’s mind when he wrote his will. But so much of today’s financial activity rests only on next year’s accounting period or tax deadline - national budgets included. Small though our individual legacies may be their collective impact underpins the Blundell’s of today. I’m leaving something to meet the onslaught of the future. How about you?”

Nick Cooper (P63-67)
Suggested wording

For a Residuary Legacy

‘Subject to the payment of my debts, funeral expenses and testamentary expenses, I give the whole of my estate, not otherwise disposed of by this will (or a % of my residual estate) to Blundell’s School Foundation which is a charity registered under number 1081249 and whose office is at Blundell’s School, Blundell’s Road, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4DN *as an unrestricted legacy. It is my wish that it shall be applied for the benefit of Blundell’s School wherever the need is greatest at the time of its receipt. On realization of the bequest, a receipt from the Bursar or other authorized officer shall be sufficient discharge for my Executors. Or if the same shall not be in existence at the date of my death to such successor or other body (including the Governing Body of Blundell’s School) which shall in the opinion of my Trustees be an appropriate body to receive such a gift for or for the benefit of Blundell’s School.’

For a Pecuniary Legacy

‘I give the sum of £ …………… to the Blundell’s School Foundation which is a charity registered under number 1081249 and whose office is at Blundell’s School, Blundell’s Road, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4DN, *as an unrestricted legacy. It is my wish that it shall be applied for the benefit of Blundell’s School wherever the need is greatest at the time of its receipt. On realization of the bequest, a receipt from the Bursar or other authorized officer shall be sufficient discharge for my Executors. Or if the same shall not be in existence at the date of my death to such successor or other body (including the Governing Body of Blundell’s School) which shall in the opinion of my Trustees be an appropriate body to receive such a gift for or for the benefit of Blundell’s School.

Notes

Naturally we wish all Blundellians good health and longevity, and with many years elapsing between Blundell’s being named as a beneficiary included in your will and the benefit of a ‘Gift being enjoyed.’ Unrestricted bequests are bequests that are particularly welcome as they allow Blundell’s to support the priorities at the time the gift will be realized. This widens the area within the School in which the gift can be directed, allowing for change over time. At the point the gift is realized, Blundell’s will work closely with the Executors to honour the donor’s wishes. However, we recognize donors may prefer to direct their bequests to a specific area.

Please notify your solicitor you wish to support and substitute *‘as an unrestricted legacy.’ With one of the following;

To support bursarial provision for pupils to be educated at Blundell’s.

To support teaching in the area of .......... (Please specify subject).

To support capital build projects.

To support .......... (Please specify any particular area of interest, the Music Department for example).
Legacy Pledge Form

I plan to remember Blundell’s School in my Will by leaving a legacy to Blundell’s School Development Office.

Please return this form to
Development Office, Blundell’s School
Tiverton Devon EX16 4DT
Telephone: 01884 243262
Email: devoffice@blundells.org

I confirm that

☐ I intend to include Blundell’s School in my Will
☐ I have already included Blundell’s School in my Will

All those who indicate that they are leaving a Legacy to Blundell’s School are eligible to join the 1604 Society and are invited to an annual event:

☐ I wish to become a member of the 1604 Society
☐ I would prefer my legacy to remain anonymous

Name: ___________________________________________________________ House/years: ____________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Postcode: ___________________________________________________________
Telephone: __________________________________________________________ Email: __________________________________________________________

“My father and uncle as well as myself and three brothers were all fortunate enough to be educated at Blundells. Recently, my wife and I have been enjoying some of the OB events and been impressed to see for ourselves how Blundell’s has evolved, is encouraging a rounded education and outgoing ethos which is the foundation of all that is admirable in a modern public school. I am very happy to be making a Gift in my Will to enable deserving pupils to receive an education which should be the aspiration for all.”

Mike Heath (SH 47-52)
‘...though I am not myself a scholar, I will be the means of making more scholars than anyone else in England.’

Words attributed to our founder
Peter Blundell
If you would like any additional information or would like to discuss a ‘Gift in your Will’ for the benefit of Blundell’s School further, please do not hesitate to contact the Development Director at: a.oliver@blundells.org, by telephone: 01884 232324 or by writing to Mrs Amber Oliver at: The Blundell’s Development Office, Blundell’s School, Blundells Road, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4DN.

Registered Charity Number 1081249