

The Charter Awards

50 full bursary places, by our 500th anniversary, forever.



The Charter Awards Campaign Group

Ex- Officio Members

Jude Lowson – Head of the King’s School Canterbury

Jenny Grant – Director of Development and Alumni

Bryony Dutta – Head of Philanthropy

Members

Baroness Kate Fall – Chair

Kate Fall is an OKS. She is a Senior Advisor at Brunswick (since November 2016) where she co-leads the Geopolitical Practice.

Kate is a member of the House of Lords, where she sits on the National Security Strategy Joint Committee and formerly the International Relations and Defence Select Committee (2019 - 2022). Kate was Deputy Chief of Staff to David Cameron for six years while he was the British Prime Minister and for five years when he was Leader of the Opposition.

Kate is a Trustee of Atlantic Partnership and The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Foundation. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the centre right think tank ‘Onward’ and a visiting Parliamentary Fellow at St Anthony’s Oxford (2022). Kate was also a Non-Executive Director of the Cultural Recovery Board from 2020 – 2021.

Kate is the author of *The Gatekeeper: Life at The Heart of No. 10*, and a regular contributor to UK political broadcasts.

Previously, Kate ran the business liaison unit and covered the foreign affairs brief for the then Leader of the Conservative party, Michael Howard. Earlier in her career she worked for the CBI under Howard Davies, and for the Conservative Research Department. Her first job was for a British MEP.

Kate is a graduate from Oxford University where she read PPE.

Charles Bird

Charles is an OKS and attended King’s from 1980-1984 (Grange). He also sent both of his daughters to the School.

After King’s, Charles worked for financial services companies Aviva and St James’s Place. In 2013 he left the City ‘Rat race’ to work with his wife in ‘Team Tactics’ which specialises in Corporate Team Building and Hospitality.

The Company has been running for 28 years dealing mainly with Blue-chip companies in London across all sectors and is based in Chilham.

Desmond Chum

Desmond is an OKS and attended King’s from 1986 – 1991 (Grange).

Following King’s, Desmond went to Oxford University where he achieved a BA in Oriental Studies.

Desmond is Managing Director within the investment team at Canyon Partners, LLC, and is based in Hong Kong. Desmond joined Canyon in 2017 and primarily focuses on public and private debt and equity special situations in Asia. Prior to joining Canyon, Desmond worked at Claren Road Asset Management, majority owned by The Carlyle Group.

Previously, Desmond was a Managing Director within Citigroup's Asia Special Situations Group, where he oversaw proprietary investments for the fixed income division of the bank in the Greater China Region.

Dinesh Dhamija

Dinesh is an OKS and attended King's from 1968 - 1969 (Grange). After King's he attended Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, where he attained an MA in law.

Dinesh began his professional career working for IBM, but soon left to begin his own business, Flightbookers. This later became Ebookers: the first interactive online travel agency in the United Kingdom. Within a few years, the firm had established itself as one of Europe's leading travel agencies, based in 11 European countries having created 2,000 jobs.

Dinesh was awarded the 2003 Entrepreneur of the Year award by the Management Today magazine, was elected as a member of the European Parliament in 2019 and sits on the Advisory Board of Innovate UK. More recently, he was the founder and chairman of the Copper Beech Group, a firm involved in residential property development in Romania and education infrastructure in India.

Dinesh is a donor and trustee of several charities including Shiksha, a charity that provides higher education to disadvantaged youngsters in India, and Chikitsa that gives free medicine to 120,000 people through 15 clinics.

Darshita Gillies

Darshita Gillies is a current KSC parent. She is celebrated as an ESG & Diversity Trailblazer and is recognised among the 100 Most Meaningful Business Leaders and the 100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations. Originating from humble beginnings in India, she has distinguished herself in the global arena of finance, sustainability and impact investing.

Darshita is the Founder & CEO of Maanch, a certified B-Corp at the forefront of delivering innovative solutions for asset managers, corporates and the philanthropy ecosystem, revolutionising their approach to ESG and sustainability data analysis and reporting. Under her leadership, Maanch has attracted clients across the UK and Europe, managing assets exceeding £200bn.

Her roles extend to being a proactive investor, philanthropist, trustee of non-profit organisations, and a non-exec director of for-profit companies.

Patricia Groom

Patricia is married to an OKS, as well as being the parent of one. She lives in Monaco.

Patricia's support for King's is based on the excellent education both her husband (Simon Groom - Linacre 1964 - 1968) and her daughter (Alexandra Groom - Walpole 2004 - 2009) received at King's and their enjoyment of their respective years at the School. This was in stark contrast to the "rotten education" she herself received "at the hands of a group of Miss Jean Brodie wannabes at an establishment in the northeast of Scotland that specialised in preparing young women for marriage to the "right man". This experience has made Patricia a vocal advocate of the supreme importance of a good education.

During Alexandra's years at King's, Patricia rented a cottage locally and asked the OKS and Development Office if she could help in any way at the School. She was put to work helping Lady Kingsdown to raise funds for scholarships and bursaries and became involved with the Office, helping out in any way necessary. She thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and looks forward to getting back to work and to meeting everyone involved with the Charter Awards Campaign.

Richard Oldfield

Richard Oldfield's daughter was at King's from 1998-2003.

Richard chaired the fundraising committee of Canterbury Cathedral from 2005 to 2014; he is Seneschal of Canterbury Cathedral and a member of Chapter and has an Hon. Doctorate at the University of Kent.

Richard is also a trustee of five other charities, including two grant-making charities and three operating (and fundraising) charities, and is chair of Shepherd Neame. He was High Sheriff 2008-9 and Vice Lord Lieutenant 2011-2020.

A retired investment manager, Richard founded Oldfield Partners LLP and was the first chair of Oxford University Endowment Management Ltd.

Richard has written two books and is currently doing a MA at the University of Buckingham.

Stephen Lark

Stephen is an OKS, attending King's from 1980-84. His three daughters were also educated at King's (spanning 2010 to 2021).

Stephen is an Insurance Broker and spent his career in a family business which was finally sold in 2022 to Howden. He's now a part-time Consultant at Howden.

Stephen is based in Kent and enjoys a variety of activities and roles to keep himself busy.

Camilla Roberts

Camilla is an OKS (BS/JR 1991-1993), and she and her husband currently have four children at the school: two who board at The King's School, and two younger children who are at the Junior King's School.

Camilla's husband's family has deep roots in The Precincts. Her husband's father and uncles on both his father's and his mother's side were King's boys, and his paternal grandfather was a Reverend Canon at the Cathedral.

Camilla joined the school as a boarder back in 1991 when girls were only allowed to join in the 6th Form. She was in Broad Street for 6b and then moved into the first purpose-built house for girls, Jervis, for her 6a year and welcomed an influx of younger girls as King's became co-ed.

Camilla read History at Trinity College, Cambridge, and then converted to law at the College of Law in London. After completing her pupillage at QEB, a general civil set that specialised in family law, she became an in-house barrister in the family department of the law firm Withers LLP. After a few years she moved into business journalism (legal sector) at a publishing house called Legalease. She was the dispute resolution editor on Legal Business Magazine and covered various jurisdictions for the Legal 500 series.

In her early 30s Camilla switched to writing freelance until 2014 when her fourth child was born and she set up a Strategy Consultancy with her husband.

In 2016, when they moved to Canterbury and were welcomed into JKS, she was asked to fundraise for the school, and was invited to join the Friends of the Junior King's School (FJKS) Committee. The following year she was elected to chair the FJKS which she did with pleasure for two years and thoroughly enjoyed leading the FJKS Summer Ball 2019 Committee.

Post-pandemic, Camilla set up a relocation and interior design business, but these days she is focusing on a new online venture in retail.