



## **Bursary Strategy: Unlocking potential through charitable support at Ratcliffe College**

*As a Catholic school, guided by the values of our founder, Blessed Antonio Rosmini, we are committed to helping talented students from low-income families through our bursary awards. We believe that by offering bursaries, we are living out our mission of "Learning and Growing in the Light of the Gospel", and empowering students to achieve their greatest potential with Christ at the centre of their learning.*

**Transforming Lives through Bursaries:** Bursaries can be truly transformational, changing the lives of young people and unlocking their greatest potential. Through our bursary strategy, we aim to provide opportunities for students who may not be able to access to a Ratcliffe education under normal circumstances. By offering financial support of up to 90% of a student's school fee, and in exceptional cases, up to 100%, we are committed to making education accessible to deserving students, regardless of their financial background.

**Living Out Our Values:** At Ratcliffe College, we believe that helping students from deserving families afford a Ratcliffe education aligns with our motto, "*Legis Plenitudo Charitas*", and reflects our commitment to living out our Roman Catholic faith through charitable actions. By providing bursaries, we aim to cultivate a sense of compassion, responsibility, and service to others among our students, creating a community that is inclusive, supportive, and driven by our Rosminian charism.

**Need-based Awards:** We offer Bursaries to students who demonstrate financial need, based on a detailed assessment of their family's income, assets, and circumstances. We aim to ensure that Bursaries are awarded to families most in need, to make a meaningful impact on their ability to access a Ratcliffe College education. All Bursaries are subject to meeting the school's entry requirements and students and their families must be in sympathy with the Roman Catholic ethos of the school. Students will also be expected to play an active part in the life of the school.

**Academic Excellence and Holistic Development:** Ratcliffe College has a strong track record of academic and co-curricular excellence, and we are committed to providing the very best facilities and opportunities for our students to achieve their greatest potential. Our bursary recipients will have access to the same high-quality teaching and learning experiences as all our students and will be encouraged to engage holistically with the wide range of opportunities that the College provides. Ratcliffe College's commitment to its students goes beyond academic excellence, as we strive to create a caring and inclusive community that nurtures the values and individual talents of every child. We believe in fostering a love of learning, empowering students to develop resilience, creativity, and a growth mindset, and equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to thrive academically and personally.

**Embracing Social Responsibility:** Ratcliffe College is not just a school, but a community that is committed to serving others. We believe in the concept of localism and are dedicated to sharing our resources and skills to enrich the lives of local people and communities. Our bursary strategy reflects this commitment, as we actively embrace our social responsibility to provide access to education for deserving students who may face financial challenges. We are proud to be part of the fabric of the East Midlands and strive to make a positive impact on our local communities.

**Vision and growth:** Our bursary strategy aims to increase our support to deserving students who demonstrate financial need, in line with our commitment to public service and supporting the notion of social mobility.

Currently, in 2023, we can provide Bursaries to approximately 10% of applicants. However, we aspire to double this percentage and support 20% of applicants by 2025. To achieve this vision, we will actively seek to expand our Bursary Fund through collaborative partnerships, engage with our alumni community, and regularly evaluate and refine our strategy to ensure its effectiveness. Our goal is to empower more talented students with the opportunity to thrive and succeed at Ratcliffe College, regardless of their financial circumstances.

**Collaborative Partnerships:** We aim to nurture partnerships with external organisations or charitable bodies, parents, grand-parents, alumni, and donors who share our commitment to providing access to education. These collaborations will help us expand the resources available for our Bursary offering and enable us to provide support to many more deserving students.

**Alumni Engagement:** We maintain a strong connection with our alumni community through the Ratcliffian Association and will continue to encourage and increase their involvement in supporting our Bursary Fund through various communications and appeals. Alumni contributions can help create a sustainable source of funding for Bursaries, and provide valuable mentorship and networking opportunities for current bursary recipients.

## **Conclusion**

Through our Bursary Strategy, Ratcliffe College aims to make a positive impact in the lives of talented students who may not have had the opportunity to access a Ratcliffe education due to financial constraints. We are committed to providing support, creating opportunities, and fostering a sense of community and service among our students. Together, with the values of our founder and the support of our wider community, we strive to help students achieve their greatest potential and make a difference in the world.

