

Rebecca Dunlop (H93)

I went to a summer school at Charterhouse whilst at George Abbott School, Guildford. It was at this point that I was able to see and experience the school's facilities first hand, and realised that Charterhouse could offer me more than just A-Levels, with extra-curricular activities and other opportunities; it was at this point that I decided to apply for a scholarship.

My parents could not have afforded to contribute towards the fees and there was only one full scholarship available for me to apply for, so I really thought that I had little chance. The selection process involved a full day at the school and an interview. When I received the news that I had been awarded the full fees Newton Scholarship I was incredibly excited and grateful to be given this opportunity.

At Charterhouse I was treated as an equal with the rest of the pupils and my contribution was valued, giving me confidence and encouraging me to put myself forward for experiences that previously I'd never have had the self-belief to do. It broadened my view of what might be possible for me to achieve. With the school's support and encouragement, I was successful in applying to Oxford University to read medicine and I am now a Consultant Plastic Surgeon.

The legacy of my Newton Scholarship went way beyond just two years of schooling as it inspired me to take countless other opportunities throughout my life, both professionally and socially. I want to continue honouring the generosity and faith of Mr Newton and his family by making the most of every experience and chance that comes my way and also by helping others who may need that initial support and backing. I am particularly passionate about encouraging young women to pursue a career in surgery and mentoring those who have started surgical training.

I wish to extend my thanks to Mr Newton's family and any family who support such life-changing experiences for others. By funding a full scholarship, or allowing your financial donation to be pooled by the school, you are helping make a transformational change to individuals. But the benefits go far beyond the child receiving the bursary, bring diversity and alternative views and experiences to the other pupils, whilst teaching all students the importance of social responsibility.

Footnote: After I left Charterhouse and went to Oxford, I continued to keep in touch with Mr Newton by letter for some years, until I graduated and began my first house-job as a junior doctor. He clearly took real delight in my achievements 'post-Charterhouse', including my Oxford Blue and Medical Elective and he offered me ongoing encouragement and advice. I have kept and treasure those letters.

