

The Oglethorpe and Dawson Educational Foundation

In 1557 Owen Oglethorpe, Bishop of Carlisle, obtained Letters Patent (a Royal Warrant) from Queen Mary to found a Grammar School in Tadcaster. His connection with the town was that he had been born in Newton Kyme and probably attended a Chantry School in Tadcaster when he was a boy. However, since that time all Chantry Schools had been abolished during the Reformation. Therefore, Owen wished to establish a school again for the boys of the area. In his Will he left property (acquired from former monastic lands) to endow the school and gave instructions about its buildings and curriculum (also included was provision for alms-houses for twelve poor people).

On the national scene Owen Oglethorpe is best remembered as the Bishop who officiated at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 1st.

Henrietta Marshall was born in Tadcaster in 1727. When she married she became Henrietta Dawson and moved away from Tadcaster for the rest of her life. In her Will of 1795 she left an endowment to provide a school for girls and also to support poor women in Tadcaster. A plaque with the details can be seen in St. Mary's Church in Tadcaster.

For over a century the two schools remained as separate institutions supported by their Founders' endowments.

In 1906 the two schools were combined as Tadcaster Grammar School. The money to support the school came partly from their Founders' endowments, partly from fees paid by the parents, but increasingly from the County Authority. After the Second World War the County took full responsibility for supporting the school. However, the Founders' endowment still existed as a separate fund. The Oglethorpe and Dawson Foundation is the body which administers the fund.

The Foundation Governors use the fund for making grants to the school to support provisions not necessarily covered by the local authority – for example, all the prizes for Senior Awards Evening and the Whole School Celebration Evening. Grants have also been given for such items as extra library books, computers and ceiling cameras for the Art and Technology Department. Support was also given when the school made its application for recognition as a Specialist College for Business and Enterprise. Support was given to a China Link Resource Base in the school which is beginning to build up materials, references and dictionaries.

Grants are also made to individual students to assist in special circumstances – for example support for necessary out of school activities for 'A' level and GCSE courses such as Biology Courses at Robin Hood's Bay, Art Study Courses in Cornwall and Geography Field Courses.

Support has also been given to individual students to assist them in taking part in cultural, sporting and life enhancing activities – for example, attending Bewerley Park Camp School, playing in the National Youth Orchestra, going to a World Scout Jamboree, going on a Guide Centenary visit to Switzerland, undertaking a World Challenge Expedition, assisting a

University expedition to a drought stricken area in India, working in Bolivia with street children and taking part in a University study about Happiness among the Polynesians!!

In 2016-2017 the Oglethorpe and Dawson Governors made a generous donation to support the establishment of the 'Just B' counselling service which has been a huge benefit to students.

It must be stressed that in all these individual cases, a grant was made because of the financial circumstances of the student and that the grant never covered the whole cost, but gave only limited financial assistance towards the total cost.

If anyone wishes to make a request to the Foundation for a grant they can apply, in confidence, by sending a letter/email to the Head of School's PA, Mrs N Clarke (n.clarke@tgs.starmat.uk) or to Mr G Middleyard, Clerk to the Foundation (g.middleyard76@gmail.com). Each application will be given sympathetic consideration, but regretfully a grant cannot be made in all cases.

The Foundation exists to help the school and its students. Do make a request if you feel you have a case.