

## TOM LOAN BURSARY RECIPIENT, CLASS OF 2008



My KGS Bursary meant a very great deal to me. Without it there is a very good chance I would not have been able to remain at the School from First to Upper Sixth Form. The Bursary and the KGS financial support system were instrumental in helping my family at a time of very serious illness and hardship, and throughout my school career. Quite simply the Bursary meant I could receive the highest level of education, at a school that I loved.

I will remember my time at KGS as undoubtedly some of the very best years I could ever hope to have. Teenage years are nothing if not eventful, and the School actively nurtured the positives and helped to ameliorate the negatives of that process.

The support I received from staff at KGS allowed me to truly enjoy what is universally a difficult phase of personal development, and concentrate on close friendships that continue today.

Whilst a pupil, I took part in every drama production I could, from Junior to Senior plays, Sixth Form plays, House Drama (which we won for Walworth - I've still got the 'Oscar!'), and loved every minute of every show. I was also an active member of GibSoc, and have returned for the GibSoc dinner a number of times. I played hockey with varying degrees of success, always had a soft spot for cricket and kept wicket for the 1st XI and 2nd XI, fenced for the School at the Public Schools' Fencing Championship and even got dragged into the odd House Ergo competition. My favourite subjects were English and Drama, and although we had some truly *legendary* teachers along the way (Sorley, Allen, Morton, Muller to name but a few), my favourite has to be Mr Bond.

After KGS, I went on to study English and completed a first class degree with honours and a paper (hopefully) soon to be published, followed by a Masters in Philosophy and Literature which I have just completed. I'm now embarking on a career in Journalism. I edited my weekly university newspaper and have written a number of pieces for online publications. I am soon to be taking my NCTJ qualification and the moment am writing a number of articles, a documentary film and a novel in its gestation.

Obviously there are distinct advantages to the level of education one receives at an outstanding independent school like KGS, not least of which is the breadth of the education and the degree to which one's learning is encouraged outside of the classroom. The Bursary was key to encouraging a happy medium between life inside and outside of the classroom, as perhaps one is more acutely aware of the 'worth' of the education, rather than simply its cost. I am aware that I shall always owe a great debt to the teachers and friends that I was lucky enough to have had at Kingston Grammar School. I think we all agree KGS has been absolutely fundamental to our development and ongoing wellbeing.

A Bursary encourages plurality and diversity in an environment that often, due to its socioeconomic exclusivity, may be otherwise somewhat lacking. Not only does it encourage pupils who might not otherwise have had the same opportunities to succeed, but also naturally expands the education of all pupils at the school. For most people, it is both rare and fortuitous to be in a position to aid a young person's development, rarer still to be invested in their education. I believe that the Bursary Fund does both of these things, so I would urge you strongly to lend your support.