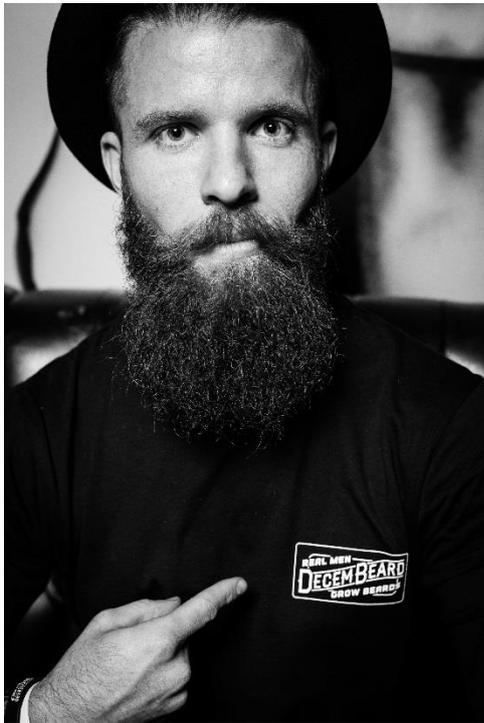


BURSARY RECIPIENT PROFILE - THEO COYNE, CLASS OF 2002



Theo Coyne is currently Corporate Partnerships Manager for Beating Bowel Cancer, inspiring supporters to take part in “Decembeard” and grow a beard for one month every year.

“When we were first looking at which secondary school I should attend, I had all these preconceived ideas about what a grammar school was and I thought it definitely wasn’t for me. When I began at KGS however I realised I’d been very wrong and the rigidity and stuffiness that I’d presumed would reign, wasn’t there at all - I really enjoyed it from the very beginning. I went to KGS on what was then known as an assisted place. Without financial help, my parents wouldn’t have been able to send me to an independent school. I’m one of five, so the fact that three brothers came to KGS is largely down to this financial assistance opening doors for us all. I was a keen hockey player and footballer as a pupil and when I look back on the belief and encouragement the sports coaches gave us at KGS, I feel really blessed to have studied where I did. I’m

thrilled to hear that Mr Williamson and Mr Buttanshaw are still at KGS, inspiring hockey players today. It’s so nice to hear that so many of the teachers I remember fondly are still a part of the fabric.

“I’m really pleased to say that I still meet up every Saturday with a big group of about 20 Old Kingstonians! They are my closest friends then and now. I really felt that I made friends for life at KGS which is a reflection on the close knit community it was then and now. Looking back, it’s not been a conventional career or life since KGS but I think the structure, the encouragement, the pushing of boundaries which KGS instilled in me from an early age has set me up well. I don’t have a fear of failure as KGS taught me how to cope with losing hockey matches and not getting top grades. I don’t ever have regrets or a worries about the ‘new’ as my life so far has taught me to cherish every moment and try everything.”