

EXCORDECARITAS
LOVE FROM THE HEART



GEORGE
WATSON'S
— COLLEGE —

Imagining
Our Future

SPRING 2019

Our History

1723



George Watson, died on 3 April 1723 leaving most of his fortune of £12,000 [Scots] to fulfil his dream of establishing a hospital school in his name.

1741



George Watson's Hospital opened in Archibald Place in 1741 for 11 boys (foundationers). By 1869 there were nearly 100 foundationers.

1870



In 1870 the hospital school became a day school for boys and was renamed 'George Watson's Boys' College'.

1871



In 1871 George Watson's Ladies' College was opened in Admiral Duncan's House in George Square.

1932



In 1932 the boys' school moved to Colinton Road.

1975



In 1975 the boys' and the girls' school joined together to make one coeducational school which was named 'George Watson's College'.

1997



Launch of the George Watson's Family Foundation, responsible for providing financial assistance in the spirit of our founder's wishes.

2012



Completion of the George Watson's College Centre for Sport.

2016



Launch of the SWIRE Chinese Language Centre Edinburgh.



Imagining Our Future

George Watson's College provides a world class education for children and young people from Preschool to S6. We encourage our pupils to develop a love of real learning through an inspiring curriculum and an extensive and inclusive enrichment programme.

We challenge and support our pupils to discover their own limitless potential. We nurture the knowledge, skills and confidence they will need to become engaged and successful citizens and make their own unique contribution to the world.



Melvyn Roffe, Principal

We are proud of our heritage and passionate about our plans for the future.



Our Educational Vision

We provide a high quality education for pupils from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of abilities and interests, sustaining them with excellent support services and providing a unique range of enrichment activities and opportunities.

Our school supports the seamless progression of pupils from Preschool to S6 and the integration of pupils who join us at any stage of their school career. We want our curriculum to be both accessible and ambitious and to prepare pupils not just for examination success but to thrive in all they do in their future academic, personal and professional lives.

We expect our pupils to think and act as confident global citizens as well as ambassadors of their own culture and place of origin. Much of our education has a distinctively international flavour and draws on best curriculum practice from Scotland and the rest of the world.

The quality of relationships between pupils and between staff and pupils is important to us.

We work in partnership with pupils' parents and carers in all aspects of pupils' time at Watson's.

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Currently we are planning to:

- Complete the development of the Junior School to provide new and outstanding facilities for our youngest pupils and those preparing to move to Senior School.
- Achieve Gold Rights Respecting School status for the Senior School as well as the Junior School which achieved that status in 2018.
- Improve our understanding and practice of inclusivity, accessibility and equality and implement a common approach to Support for Learning across the School.
- Expand our Preschool provision so that Preschool becomes the normal point of entry for pupils into the Lower Primary School.
- Reorganise and refresh our Library provision to better integrate books and other paper resources with electronic sources of information for pupils.

In the future we expect to:

- Review our curriculum to give greater flexibility for pupils to take a wide range of courses and to study in intellectually stimulating ways beyond what is offered by conventional school qualifications.
- Continue to update our Health and Wellbeing provision across our school.
- Further enhance our provision for Outdoor Learning and make it a priority in developing our campus.
- Find new ways to bring an international perspective to the education we provide, specifically by developing new partnerships with schools abroad and seeking opportunities for international work experience placements.
- Review and enhance our Enrichment Programme to ensure that it caters for all pupils' interests, enthusiasms and needs.
- Use data intelligently to ensure that we understand all our pupils' true potential and can meet their needs.

In addition, we aspire to:

Bring together our Art and Technology Departments in a new Creative Hub which will enable pupils, staff and members of the wider community to learn and work together in exploring the vital synergies between Engineering, Technology, Design, Art and other creative disciplines.



A Sound Business Model

We aim to make an independent education available to a wide range of families and ensure that our fees remain best value. Our goal is to provide exceptional value for money by adopting efficient and effective business practice and maximising opportunities to benefit from non-fee income as far as is compatible with its core educational and charitable purposes.

In 2017 and 2018 we were placed in the top 10 best value independent schools in the UK by *The Daily Telegraph*.

Our staff are at the heart of our success both now and in the future. We are committed to recruiting, retaining and developing outstanding people to work here and to being an employer of choice in the education sector.

In 2017 and 2018 we were placed in the top 10 best value independent schools in the UK by *The Daily Telegraph*

Currently we are planning to:

- Complete the modernisation of staff contracts, conditions of service, salary scales and provision of professional learning.
- Review salary structures, recognising the outstanding service of teachers and support staff to the school and our pupils.
- Develop and implement a medium-term financial strategy to enable us to achieve our objectives without routinely requiring annual fee increases significantly above inflation.
- Complete the review of key operations to ensure that high quality service is provided by value for money practices.
- Complete the review of governance practices and procedures to ensure that our future success is underpinned by excellent governance.
- Devise and implement a School Travel Plan to reduce our impact on local roads and the environment.







Outreach and Partnerships

Local, national and international partnerships support our core charitable purposes, enrich the educational experience of pupils and help to sustain our business model.

We take particular pride in the rich partnerships that are enjoyed with the Watsonian community whose outstanding support is an important factor in our ongoing success.

Currently we are planning to:

- Develop a comprehensive programme of outreach and access activities to benefit pupils who are not currently at our school.
- Publicly launch a major fundraising campaign to fund and endowment providing Foundation Places in perpetuity; capital projects, notably the Creative Hub; outreach and access programmes, global education programmes; sport, music and the arts.
- Further expand our Community Partnerships programme to enable us to work closely and for mutual benefit with a variety of community groups and other third sector partners.
- Further enhance the relationship with the newly incorporated Watsonian Club.

Local, national and international partnerships support our core charitable purposes

In the future we expect to:

- Seek international partners with a view to working with them on the creation of an international schools brand for George Watson's College.
- Develop our sports facilities for the common benefit of the school, the Watsonian sports sections and our other partners in the wider community.

In addition, we aspire to:

Provide a high quality facility for S5 and S6 boarders at the school as a unique pre-university experience.







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George Watson's College, Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH10 5EG
0131 446 6000 www.gwc.org.uk

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