

## **Hundreds of new bursaries for boarding schools**

*New charity plans major drive for social mobility*

The SpringBoard Bursary Foundation, a new charity that brings together many of the UK's leading independent and state boarding schools, today announces an ambitious programme that will offer hundreds of boarding school places to disadvantaged pupils.

By September 2023, The SpringBoard Bursary Foundation aims to have 2,000 disadvantaged pupils on SpringBoard bursaries at boarding schools across the UK. The new bursaries will start next year: in the academic year 2013/14, its aim is to have 30 pupils in boarding schools.

Over 60 leading state and independent boarding schools will be involved in The SpringBoard Bursary Foundation. The first wave of schools includes: Benenden School, Bromsgrove School, Christ College Brecon, Christ's Hospital, Eton College, Harrow School, King Edward's School Witley, Lancing College, Marlborough College, Merchiston Castle School, Old Swinford Hospital, Oundle School, Radley College, Roedean, Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Rugby School, Sherborne School, Sherborne Girls', Taunton School, Tudor Hall School, Uppingham School, Wellington Academy, Wellington College and Wymondham College. Many more have indicated their strong support and will be involved with the second wave.

To identify the children who might apply for bursaries, The SpringBoard Bursary Foundation is creating partnerships across the UK with state schools, charities and other bodies. Existing partners include **Into**University, Eastside Young Leaders' Academy and a number of state schools including Hawick High School and the Fulwood Academy in Preston.

A wide range of individuals, trusts and foundations has pledged funding for The SpringBoard Bursary Foundation, with the Garfield Weston Foundation among those offering significant financial support. The bursaries will be jointly funded by the Foundation and the boarding schools.

Lord Hill, Education Minister, said: *"This is a brilliant initiative which brings the independent and state sector together to offer life changing opportunities to some of our poorest children. We know from Rugby school's Arnold Foundation that this is an approach that works and I am delighted that so many schools and charities are coming together to take this idea nation-wide."*

Lord Adonis, the former Labour education minister and SpringBoard Advisory Board member, added: *"As someone who was able to attend a boarding school thanks to a foundation dedicated to the welfare of disadvantaged children, I know how independent schemes such as this can change a young person's life for the better. I am delighted to endorse Springboard and very much look forward to serving as a member of its advisory panel"*.

Ian Davenport, Chief Executive of SpringBoard and the former Headmaster of Blundell's, said: *"Boarding schools have helped transform thousands of children's lives but have too*

*often been perceived to be the preserve of a social elite; so today marks an important moment for social mobility in this country. Alongside business and the third sector, the schools party to The SpringBoard Bursary Foundation will offer major opportunities to young people from communities that suffer from a poverty of educational ambition.”*

According to the [Independent Schools Council](#) (ISC):

- 68,476 pupils board at ISC schools, making up 13.5% of total pupil numbers (508,472).
- Approximately 5,000 pupils board in state schools.
- 489 schools, representing 40.0% of all ISC schools, have some boarding pupils.
- A total of 5,279 pupils at ISC schools paid no fees at all in 2012.

The SpringBoard Bursary Foundation is closely modelled on Rugby School’s decade-old access scheme, the Arnold Foundation. The new initiative is a national scheme to provide 100% bursaries at independent and state boarding schools for a significant number of children from disadvantaged backgrounds who stand to benefit from a boarding education.