



**University of  
Nottingham**  
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**Supporters of student aspiration**

**Issue 6 2025**

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# AMBITION

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**Discover how your  
donations are making a  
life-changing difference  
at Nottingham.**



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**242**  
talented scholarships students said 'yes' to a place at Nottingham this academic year.

**14**  
new student-led Cascade projects were funded by kind donations in 2024.

# Thank you!

**81,000**  
hours were given up by students to run more than 74 sports clubs as part of the Leadership Academy.

**10,991**  
students benefitted from time generously given by our alumni volunteers last academic year.

**42**  
countries were represented by alumni donating to last year's Giving Day.

**51**  
alumni enquired about leaving a gift in their will last year. Complete the enclosed form if you want to find out more.

## Editor's Note

Welcome to the latest edition of Ambition – the magazine that celebrates your impact and the life-changing difference you make at Nottingham.

Once again, it's been a pleasure to meet the students who have benefitted from your support, like Gabriella Moore who thought studying Medicine was impossible until she found out she was receiving a scholarship, or Millie Smith, who was able to kickstart her career with an internship in Hollywood.

However, what's striking is that many of the recipients we meet are already thinking how they can

pay your kindness forward to help benefit others. For Lucy Smith she's leaving a legacy behind at Nottingham after setting up a local Brownies unit, meanwhile PhD student Adam Parker is conducting potentially life-changing research into tics. All thanks to the generosity of alumni just like you.

So, thank you so much for making a tangible difference not just here in Nottingham but also the wider community too. I hope you enjoy reading the issue and please let me know any comments you may have by emailing [supportus@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:supportus@nottingham.ac.uk)





## University of Nottingham appoints new President and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Jane Norman has been appointed the eighth President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham. Formerly the university's Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Norman took up her new role from January.

Jane has chaired grant panels nationally and internationally including for the Wellcome Trust and for the National Institute for Health Research. She was a member of the Clinical Medicine panel for the 2021 REF and is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

As Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of

Bristol, Professor Norman led a radical and innovative reshaping of dental education, propelling the Dental School in Bristol to the top quartile in student satisfaction in the UK and expanding on its civic mission.

Professor Norman added: "The University of Nottingham has an impressive reputation, both across the sector and the wider world.

"Before I joined – looking from the outside in – I remember thinking what a great example it is of what a university should be. A university focussed not just on what we are good at, but what we are good for. A university with a truly global outlook, delivering outstanding research and teaching that is having a real impact on people's lives and on the world."

## New frieze commemorates Nottingham's links with the Cambodian Children's Fund

The School of Education at the University of Nottingham and the Cambodian Children's Fund (CCF) have celebrated eight years of education collaboration, with a fitting tribute.

Since 2017, the university has provided educational expertise, planning and research, teacher training and professional development to develop CCF's Education Program – and it



continues to create a generation of teachers capable of delivering a world-class education to some of the most disadvantaged children in Cambodia.

To mark the eight-year long partnership, CCF (a non-profit organisation) presented the university with a stunning stone carving – which can be found in the Monica Partridge Building on University Park.

The ongoing collaboration, which offers teaching and education staff the opportunity to study for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education International (PGCEi), began with an introduction from Robert Cripps, Vice-President Philanthropy and Art of the Cripps Foundation and long-term CCF supporter. The Cripps Foundation and its affiliates have had an extraordinary impact on the university over many years and are one of the institution's most generous donors.

Read more about the frieze and its creation: <https://bit.ly/UoNSupporterNews>

## Remembering those who have left a gift in their will

Thanks to a generous gift left to the university by a former student, we have enhanced the beautiful Walled Garden on University Park. It now includes a 'Legacy Wall' featuring plaques that acknowledge supporters' contributions and their wider impact on the community, should they wish to be remembered after they've passed away.

The garden is a special place to many, so the nature of the improvements has been subtle and in keeping with the garden's character. These include improving accessibility, new plants, relocating existing features and seating, creating new seating and refurbishing the wall at the northern end of the garden to create the Legacy Wall.

The garden will continue to provide a peaceful, secular space that can be used for



contemplation and reflection by the wider university community to support the mindfulness and wellbeing of our students, staff and alumni, while also celebrating the life-changing impact of legacy giving.

If you are interested in visiting the Legacy Wall, there will be opportunities to take a tour during two open days this spring. If you would like to attend, please call Rebekah Spencer on +44 (0115) 951 3997 or email: [legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk).



## Tourette's technology developed in Nottingham, recommended by NICE

You may remember reading in last year's Ambition about groundbreaking research into technology to reduce the severity of tics in people with Tourette's. Thanks to continued research, these developments are closer to patient use after being

recommended in draft guidance by NICE, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

The technologies are utilising research and clinical trial results from University of Nottingham scientists to develop innovative products that are non-invasive and effective in treating the symptoms of Tourette's. This is the first time a NICE committee has recommended digital therapies for these conditions.

One of these breakthroughs is a wrist device that delivers electrical pulses to reduce the

amount and severity of tics experienced by individuals with Tourette's. The device is being developed by spin-out Neupulse, and is based on research conducted by scientists from the University of Nottingham's School of Psychology and School of Medicine.

But that's not the only research taking place. Later in this issue you can read about PhD student Adam Parker who, thanks to a gift left in a will, is currently researching ways to improve the lives of people with tics.

# News

# Unlocking Potential



Last year's Giving Day gave alumni around the globe the opportunity to come together and raise money to support four amazing causes here at Nottingham. From Azerbaijan to Australia, people like you donated more than £80,000 in just 36 hours. What an amazing achievement!

Giving Day really embodies the generosity of our donors who want to make an impact at Nottingham. This year's theme was the idea of 'unlocking potential'. Whether you were unlocking potential by helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds access higher

education, funding the next medical breakthrough or supporting student mental health, Giving Day was a celebration of your support and we're extremely grateful.

A new cause for last year's Giving Day was the Opportunities Fund, which gives students up to £200 to engage in sporting activities at Nottingham. The extra money can help to buy essential kit or contribute towards additional training. More than £9,000 was raised for the Opportunities Fund, which will make sport more accessible for up to 45 students.

You can read more about the impact the Opportunities Fund can have in our interview with Grace Jordan on page 14.

"I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played a role in last year's Giving Day," said Paul Geddes, Alumni Giving Manager. "From the ambassadors who tirelessly spread the word, to the incredibly generous supporters who donated during the event, each of you made a profound impact on Nottingham."

## Medical Research

For more than 25 years, our world-leading researchers and clinicians at the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC) have been working hard to stop brain tumours from shattering the lives of children and their families. To help fund future breakthroughs, more than £12,000 was raised by 69 donors during Giving Day.



"I am proud to have attended Nottingham University. It gave me some of the best memories of my life and introduced me to lifelong friends. I wish the same can be true for all who attend now and in the future."

Carl Carp, Giving Day donor



## Scholarships for disadvantaged students

With more than 280 supporters donating a fantastic £32,000, scholarships proved to be the most popular cause during the Giving Day. Many of you were moved by the story of Danny, an adult nursing student who has been a young carer since the age of 12. He receives a scholarship which allows him to continue caring for his dad while throwing himself into his studies.

"Coming to Nottingham has been a life-changing experience, and without the scholarship I receive, none of it would have been possible. The scholarship has allowed me to fully immerse myself in my studies and chase my dream of becoming a clinical nurse specialist in brain injury rehabilitation," said Danny.

## Mental health support at the Students' Union

The life of a student can be full of pressures – from balancing the weekly budget to managing a busy lecture schedule. For some it can often be too much, and they feel overwhelmed, without somewhere to turn. However, thanks to services like Nightline, those students struggling with their mental health can find hope when things seem hopeless. Giving Day raised an amazing £10,000 to ensure Nightline can provide a safe space during term time, particularly during the exam period when things can seem toughest.





# Opening Opportunities

**Lucy Smith describes how a scholarship has opened a world of opportunities for her at Nottingham.**

Your generous donations to scholarships give students from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to enjoy university life to its fullest, without constant money worries. By relieving the financial pressure of juggling long hours in a part-time job, you're ensuring they can concentrate on their academic achievements and extra-curricular activities to help them grow as a person.

One such student that has benefitted from your support is Lucy Smith (third year, Psychology). Her scholarship has given her the freedom to volunteer for Nightline and also start a new Brownies group near the university.

"Whilst neither of my parents, nor any of my grandparents attended university, I knew I wanted to pursue higher education, and my family were always very encouraging of my aspirations," said Lucy.

"The scholarship funding is life changing for me. As I come from a single parent and low-income household, I always knew I couldn't rely on family for money if

needed. The funding took a huge burden off my mum's shoulders because I knew she was worried about not being able to provide for me, and she was worried I wouldn't get the full university experience, but now I know I will. The money also relieves a burden from my own shoulders as I won't need to work part time, and I will be able to focus on my studies, as well as voluntary work experience which I wish to pursue."

One of the volunteering activities that Lucy has been involved in is Nightline – which offers mental health support to students.

"I learn a lot about mental health of students through volunteering for Nightline and it's quite eye opening," Lucy told us. "A lot of people struggle and you wouldn't even know it. Working with Nightline has given me some really good skills that will help in the future too – learning how to talk to people, listening to people effectively and empathy skills. I definitely don't think I would have been able to volunteer for Nightline without the scholarship."



*Lucy attending the Queen's Guide Award Celebration.*

As well as volunteering for Nightline, Lucy has taken the opportunity to start a Brownies unit in Nottingham. "When I came to Nottingham I joined the Scout Society because it's something I've done my whole life. I'm actually on their National Executive Committee as well, which has allowed me to get involved with so many different things.

"I'm so proud of starting the Brownies unit though because it took a lot of work to set it up, along with another student. The girls can be a handful but they're just so excited to come each week. Once I've left university, I'm hopeful that the university Scout Society will take it over because it's just so rewarding and I like to think I'm leaving something behind once I've left."

**Thank you for supporting scholarships. If you would like to find out more about donating to scholarships at Nottingham, please see the enclosed form or visit: <https://bit.ly/support-uon>**



# Against the Odds

**A gift in a will gave Gabriella Moore the financial freedom to overcome adversity and fulfil her ambition to study Medicine at Nottingham.**

A university education has the power to inspire inquiring minds. It can give students a sense of purpose or the drive to push themselves further than they thought possible. It may be the key to unlocking a dream career or the opportunity of a better future. Your kindness can be the spark that brings a young mind to life and the catalyst that sets an individual on a bright new path. This is because without financial support from generous donors like you – whether through a donation now or via a gift in your will – all this can seem impossible.

That was the case for first-year Medicine student Gabriella who was worried that without financial support, she may not be able to enter higher education. Sadly for Gabriella her mum passed away in 2020 due to a brain aneurism, leaving Gabriella's dad to support her and her two younger brothers, which meant her ambition to study medicine was thrown into doubt. However, it was a similar sense of adversity that inspired Gabriella's aspirations to study Medicine in the first place.

"I first realised I wanted to study medicine during a prolonged hospital stay when I was 13-years-old," said Gabriella. "After months of struggling to walk or enjoy playing sports with my friends, an orthopaedic surgeon diagnosed me with a rare lower limb condition which she later resolved through two major surgeries.

"These surgeries left me wheelchair bound for eight months and then after some intense rehabilitation and physiotherapy I was back walking again with crutches. During my hospital stay I took an interest in the various medical conditions of the other children in my bay and I remember asking each staff member what their uniform meant and what they did in their job.

"Once I had fully recovered from my surgeries and returned to school, I arranged some work experience in a podiatrist's clinic to get a taste for working in healthcare. I loved my time there so much that I returned multiple times and observed surgeries as well as being allowed to perform basic examinations."

In order to achieve her ambition of heading to university, Gabriella studied Chemistry, Biology and Psychology at A-level, as well as completing an Extended Project Qualification in treatments for adolescent mental health conditions. Unfortunately, like many other young people in 2022, Gabriella received the news that she had not achieved the grades required to study Medicine but once again, her determination pushed her onwards.

"Determined to make my younger self and my mum proud I decided to be resilient and resit my A-level Chemistry the following year," Gabriella told us. "I spent that year working in Goole District

Gabriella standing in front of the Trent Building.





**“I found out I was lucky enough to receive this scholarship whilst on a night shift at the hospital and immediately told the other nursing staff on shift who had been supporting me through my application process”**

Hospital on a neurological rehabilitation ward as a healthcare assistant alongside my studies to gain clinical experience as well as help people who had traumatic brain injuries similar to my mum. Working there helped me better understand the impact health professionals have on a patient's quality of life and gave me a sense of belonging that motivated me to reapply for Medicine at university.”

Even after achieving the grades required to come to Nottingham, Gabriella was still concerned about having the financial freedom to experience university life to its fullest. She also wanted to return to Goole on a regular basis to continue her work on the neurological rehabilitation ward as a healthcare assistant, without the worry of travel costs.

“I found out I was lucky enough to receive this scholarship whilst on a night shift at the hospital and immediately told the other nursing staff on shift who had been supporting me through my application process,” said Gabriella.

“We were overjoyed because the financial aspect of university had been my biggest worry coming from a single parent household and this scholarship meant I would be able to participate in activities and opportunities at university without the added financial burden.”

Thanks to the scholarship, not only has Gabriella been given the confidence to come to Nottingham, the freedom of not having to get a part-time job has allowed her to join the medic's netball team, along with the climbing team.

“I enjoy walking round Wollaton Park, which is beautiful and reminds me of the countryside back home,” added Gabriella. “While at Nottingham I am looking forward to saying ‘yes’ to as many opportunities as possible and giving new things a go. None of this would have been possible without the kindness of a donor.”

Gabriella's scholarship was made possible thanks to the Cath Bromwich Scholarships for Medicine. A fund originally set up to remember her son, formed the inspiration for alumna Cathleen Bromwich to leave a gift in her will and support a new generation of students at Nottingham's School of Medicine.

Cath graduated in Chemistry from Nottingham in 1956 before becoming a teacher in her home county of Lancashire. Following the death of her son in 2012, Cath wanted to encourage others to share his passion for engineering and created the Michael Bromwich Award in his memory.

The prize is awarded to Nottingham undergraduates in the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering and recognises the two highest achieving students at the end of the first, second and third years.

After Cath passed away in September 2022, she left a gift in her will to establish the Cath Bromwich Scholarships for Medicine. The scholarships support School of Medicine students from lower income backgrounds who have faced barriers to their education.

“Widening access to Medicine is vitally important to ensure that future doctors are more representative of the population they will care for in the UK,” said Mandy Hampshire, Director of Admissions, School of Medicine. “However, enabling students from widening access backgrounds to fully participate in medical student life and successfully qualify as doctors is a challenge.

“Finances are a key issue for current medical students, especially during the clinical years of their training. The Cath Bromwich Scholarships for Medicine will provide much needed support and will make a real difference to the students who receive them.”

**If Gabriella or Cath's story has inspired you to find out more about leaving a gift in your will, please return the enclosed form, email [legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk), or call Rebekah Spencer, Alumni Giving Manager on +44 (0)115 951 3997**



# A Sporting Chance

**Grace Jordan, third-year Medical Physiology and Therapeutics student, explains how your donations to the Opportunities Fund will help students like her find sporting success at Nottingham.**

The first Nottingham students donned the Green and Gold more than 100 years ago and since then we have a proud history of national and international sporting success. In 2024 we were named Sports University of the Year by The Times and we attract some of the best and brightest sporting talent from across the globe. Joining a sports club at Nottingham is more than just about physical fitness though; it's an investment in mental health and wellbeing. Here, Medical Physiology and Therapeutics student Grace Jordan explains how the Opportunities Fund has made a difference to her time at Nottingham.

"Participating in sport at university is a crucial part of my routine, offering a much-needed break from studying and the stresses of everyday life. It provides an avenue to de-stress and recharge after a challenging day, helping me maintain a balanced lifestyle.

"Engaging in physical activity isn't just about staying fit—it has significant benefits for my mental health as well. The demands of university life go beyond academic work, as living independently can also be stressful at times. Sport allows me to "decompress," release pent-up energy, and refocus.

"Being part of a sports team at the University of Nottingham has been one of the best ways to feel connected and at home here. Honestly, I feel a bit patriotic about it! There's something special about wearing the Green and Gold, knowing you're representing the university you love. It gives you a real sense of pride and belonging.

"Without the Opportunities Fund, I wouldn't have been able to take advantage of all the amazing sporting activities the university offers. It has allowed me to pursue my passion for sport, which I now share with the children I teach to swim as part of my part-time job. Passing on my love for swimming is incredibly fulfilling, as I remember how much I looked up to my own swimming teachers when I was younger. Having a teacher who genuinely enjoys the sport they teach can inspire children to develop their own passion and confidence in the water.

"The Opportunities Fund has absolutely taken the pressure off finding money to support my sporting activities. Thanks to the fund, I've been able to make the most out of my university experience—exactly how it should be during these formative years when the world feels like our oyster!"

University of  
Nottingham Sport



# Summer School

**A group of 18 students learned about entrepreneurship and sustainability at the university's first-ever sustainable summer school, thanks to funds donated by supporters.**



In 2024 the Global Opportunities team organised the University of Nottingham's first-ever sustainable summer school. Funded by generous donations from alumni, this innovative programme aimed to address two challenges facing the study abroad sector: the environmental impact of travel and the inclusion of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Hosted by Burgundy School of Business (BSB), a group of 18 students travelled to France via Eurostar, making it the university's most sustainable study abroad opportunity. The students participating in the programme were selected on the strength of their applications and were from a range of academic backgrounds.

The two-week academic programme focussed on the topics of entrepreneurship and sustainability. The group spent one week at the BSB campus in Lyon followed by a week spent at the Dijon campus. Students took part in academic lectures, industry visits and cultural activities in the local area. Programme fees, travel from London to the BSB campuses, accommodation and most meals were funded by your support, ensuring students didn't have to worry about finding the money required - making this summer school truly sustainable and accessible to all.

"As someone on a core bursary, this trip was a life-changing experience. I have made so many friends who have similar backgrounds to me and we all enjoyed the trip so much," described second-year Economics student Emma Gandy.

"The sessions on entrepreneurship really built my confidence, and the sustainability lessons were insightful into our changing environment and what we can do to help the planet. As someone who studies Economics, the summer school was inspiring educationally. I am also taking a French optional module which I have been inspired to start practising for! I hope to stay in contact with the people I met on the trip and continue learning about sustainability. The trip was an experience I will never forget, and I cannot thank those who made it possible enough."

Students were asked to rate their own skills and competencies in pre- and post-programme surveys. The students' self-assessment highlighted that the programme was successful in helping the students develop key life skills and transferable skills which will aide them in the workplace.

This sentiment was shared by third-year Economics student Arnav Patel: "Being part of this program has transformed me. It has boosted my confidence, opened my mind to new perspectives in both entrepreneurship and sustainability, and ignited a passion for entrepreneurship which I am excited to find out more about. I feel more prepared than ever to excel in my studies and pursue my career goals. Thank you again for believing in me. Your support has been instrumental in my growth, and I am truly humbled by your generosity."







# Pitching In

**Professional football dietician and Nottingham alumnus Matt Lawson describes how his time at Nottingham has inspired him and ensured a lifelong connection to the university.**

**“I still feel very connected to the university and wanted to give something back because I’m so thankful of the start it gave me.”**

Studying at Nottingham has the potential to forge a lasting connection. A thread that runs throughout your life but has its origins in late nights studying at the Hallward, relaxing walks around the lake when exams get too much, or moments spent with friends in hall common rooms.

For many of our generous alumni like you, that connection inspires them to give back to the university. One such individual is Matt Lawson (Masters of Nutrition & Dietetics Degree, 2010) who not only gives his time back by volunteering, but has also pledged to leave a gift in his will.

Before studying for his Masters, Matt always had an interest in sport and while at secondary school, his favourite subjects were Biology and Physical Education. Although he played a lot of football – including for Notts County Juniors – he was always interested in how the body works, which led him to the Nutrition and Dietetics course.

“I’m Nottingham born and bred, so when I saw they had a course that combined my interests I knew I needed to come here,” explained Matt. “I’m so glad I stayed in Nottingham because it was critical to the good fortune I’ve had, but I also loved my time there.”

This good fortune led Matt to secure a job at Notts County Football Club, during a potentially turbulent time for the organisation – following a takeover by a fraudulent company called Munto Finance. Former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson took over as manager at the club and saw how important a healthy diet was to ensure a good performance on the pitch. As a result, he brought in Matt – fresh from his time at university – to teach the players how to eat better and the effects it would have on their bodies. Although it didn’t work out for Eriksson at Notts County, this opportunity kicked off Matt’s career as a sports dietician, which has ultimately led to him working with the Football Association and clubs like Manchester City and Barcelona.

“I’ve managed to have this very lucky career, and I feel that’s down to the University of Nottingham,” said Matt. “I still feel very connected to the university and wanted to give something back because I’m so thankful of the start it gave me. I volunteered to become a mentor almost as soon as I left and have even coached the University of Nottingham All Stars football team.

“I’ve just found it so rewarding to become a mentor and I’m still in touch with some of the students I’ve helped through LinkedIn. It’s great to see how well they’re doing. It’s things like this that still help me feel like part of Nottingham. I never forget that the university helped me get where I am.”

This continued connection to Nottingham has also inspired Matt to pledge a gift in his will, despite only being in his 30s.

“I like to be organised and I’m just so grateful to the university that I want to continue giving back into the future too. It’s not really a massive commitment but I think it’s good to give an indication that you’re interested.”

**If you’re interested in donating your time as a volunteer, please contact [givingtime@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:givingtime@nottingham.ac.uk).**

**If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your will, please contact [legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk) or complete the enclosed form.**



# Cascade

## Introducing three new student-led community initiatives set to make waves this year.

The Cascade Grants Programme, funded by donations from alumni and friends of the university, offers students a unique opportunity to access funds to bring their visionary projects to life. Since it began in 2007, the programme has awarded more than £1 million in grants to student-led initiatives, enabling hundreds of community projects to take place.

Thanks to those who generously donate to Cascade, it's now time for a new cohort of altruistic students to seize the opportunity to develop, refine, and crucially share their skills with the wider community. Here we shine a light on just three of the many new projects awarded funding this academic year, all carefully designed to create a real and lasting difference, and ensure the ripple effect of generous donations to the Cascade scheme continues to be felt far and wide.



### Education, education, education

Students, Adrian Angol-Henry and Socks Ansell are eager to progress with their project after being granted funds for an innovative education scheme. They plan to give pupils from the East Midlands area who have been identified by their secondary school as being most in need of extra educational help, the chance to receive private tuition provided by Nottingham student volunteers free of charge.

The project aims to support as many as 100 young people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, with the volunteer student tutors using their own subject knowledge combined with specialist training to equip them to help their young charges reach their full educational potential at GCSE level. In addition the student volunteers will also provide mentoring support and advice to the younger pupils, helping them to aspire to brighter futures that they may have once thought were out of reach to them.

### Representing 'every body'

Confronted with a well-documented lack of diversity in the imagery used in medical publications, pro-active final year medical student Aisia Lee decided to apply for Cascade funding to address this imbalance and project 'Anatome' was born.

Working with other students and her university supervisor, Aisia plans to use the Cascade grant to create an image bank of surface anatomy images that are more representative of society, specifically addressing the under representation of darker skin tones, disability and diverse body shapes in the standard images used in medical educational resources.

This ambitious project will see the students collate and then share their image bank with key stakeholders within the university and beyond, to ensure that in the future the range of images available to medical publications more accurately reflects the 'real' patient community. This will help promote a culture of inclusiveness in medical training and striving towards equal healthcare outcomes for all within medical practice.



### An expert listening ear

The 'Human Flourishing Project' has a mission to improve the psychological well-being of the people of Nottingham. At a time of unprecedented demand on mental health services, the project, a collaboration between MA students studying Counselling & Psychotherapy and qualified therapists, has recently been awarded funding by Cascade to extend its successful programme. This will see student trainees offer much needed therapy sessions free of charge to vulnerable members of the community in need of psychological support.

Jen Holland, a current PhD student at the university who applied for the funding to extend this valuable programme explained that the project gives students the rare opportunity to really contribute 'to the enhancement of somebody's life' whilst also gaining real-life field experience. This will equip them to be well-rounded future practitioners able to help and support a diverse range of people in need of support.





# Back to School



**“The scholarship gave me the confidence to go back into academia.”**

**After a six-year break from formal education, a gift left in a will helped Adam Parker start a PhD focusing on vital research into tic disorders.**

Over the past year, you may have seen the University of Nottingham has been pioneering new technology to help reduce the effects of potentially life-changing neurological disorders, such as tics linked to Tourette's Syndrome..

While the Neupulse wearable technology is making headlines – thanks to visits to the university by musician and songwriter Lewis Capaldi, who has tested the wristwatch-like device to reduce his own tics – researchers are hard at work trying to make the next medical breakthrough in this field.

One such individual is Adam Parker, a PhD student and scholarship recipient doing vital research into tic disorders, which will help GPs support those who suffer from tics. There are around 300,000 people in the UK with a tic disorder and Adam has first-hand experience of seeing a family member who struggles to receive appropriate healthcare.

However, Adam may not have been able to study towards a PhD without the help of a scholarship.

“I was quite apprehensive about going back to university,” said Adam. “Once you’ve been in the world of work, it’s a daunting prospect to go back into full-time education. The scholarship was the biggest reason I had the confidence to go back into academia. It allowed me the space to make sure I didn’t have to worry about finances.

“It was a real honour when I found out that I would receive the scholarship. It just makes you want to achieve even more because the fund has been provided for a specific reason and you want to make the most of it.”

Adam wanted to return to education to research tic disorders – something he has witnessed firsthand. “I have a family member who has a tic disorder and you can see the toll it takes on their mental health,” added Adam. “Although tic disorders may not be life threatening, they can be life-altering. It can affect their daily lives and mental health through stigma from the public, their peers, employers and even healthcare professionals.

“The hope is that we can do something life-changing with the research we’re doing. For example, I work with someone that did something similar for ADHD and now that resource is available to GPs nationally, and even for doctors in some other countries too. If we’re able to do a similar thing, then it could really help the many, many people living with tics to get support earlier.”

This has all been made possible for Adam, thanks to the Joan Browne Scholarship, a legacy that supports high calibre PhD medical students, with additional assistance for specialist equipment and travel. Joan was well known by generations of Lincolnshire pupils after spending a lifetime working in education and now her love for learning lives on, thanks to the gift left in her will.

“The scholarship gave me such a confidence boost,” said Adam. “It was daunting coming back into education but having the support behind me gave me more confidence. You know that someone believed in the future of Nottingham students when they left the gift in their will.”

**If you’re interested in leaving a gift in your will, please call our Alumni Giving Manager Rebekah Spencer on +44(0)115 951 3997 or complete the enclosed form.**





# California Dreaming

**Third-year International Media and Communications student Millie Smith describes an unforgettable summer working in Hollywood, thanks to the Peter Rice Award.**



“It’s no exaggeration to say that this experience changed my life. I grew up in a working class family in Manchester with no knowledge of the industry or connection to it, but a deep love of storytelling. I applied to Nottingham almost on a whim, in the hope of securing one of these placements - and came away from my time in LA with a passion for development that I don’t know that I ever would have realised if not for the incredible team I worked with there.

It’s now half a decade since my return, and I’ve now been working in development for leading independent studio SISTER (Chernobyl, Eric and Kaos) for almost three years, and I’ve just sold my first series development to Netflix. I am so grateful to the university for setting up the opportunity that gave me the first taste of the career I will be blessed enough to enjoy for the rest of my working life, and to Peter Rice for funding and facilitating the whole thing.

**- Shaunna O’Brien, Film and Television Studies, 2019 and former recipient of the Peter Rice Award**

As well as receiving an education, studying at Nottingham is also about grasping opportunities that can set you up for the rest of your life. Whether it’s an internship, meeting an alumni mentor or joining programmes like Cascade, there are plenty of chances for students to thrive and add to their CV before entering a competitive jobs market.

This is particularly true in the TV and film industry, which is extremely tough to break into without the right connections. However, thanks to the generosity of alumni Peter Rice (American Studies, 1989), Millie Smith was given a once in a lifetime opportunity to work at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) in the heart of Hollywood.

“When I began sixth form, and studying for my A-levels, I was unsure of whether I wanted to attend university. The state school that I had attended did not inform students on university, nor did they encourage higher education,” explained Millie.

“University was not encouraged in my single-parent household, as my mother had no experience of higher education. However, after studying Media Studies at A-level, I knew that the entertainment industry and creativity was what I wanted to pursue.

“The problem was, I didn’t know how to get into the industry. No one in my family has any similar experience and I didn’t know where to start.”

However, a break came for Millie when she heard about the Peter Rice Award while attending an Open Day at Nottingham.

“I said to my mum ‘imagine if I was able to do that’ but didn’t really think it would be possible,” added Millie. “So, when the opportunity came up, I applied and hoped for the best. I couldn’t believe it when I got the call to say I had been chosen.”

Millie travelled to Los Angeles with seven other students and spent seven weeks gaining invaluable work experience as the first international intern at CAA.

“My internship has absolutely informed my future career goals, and has given me something specific to work towards,” said Millie. “I feel that my motivation to get there and to do my absolute best has increased so much after this amazing experience. It has allowed me to dream bigger and to want more than what I originally thought I could achieve.”





# A Connection to Nottingham

Can you solve the puzzle grid below? Find four groups of words that share a common theme. There's a Nottingham link between all of them... but can you guess the correct groups?

WOLLATON

HEWSON

CASTLE ROCK

MCCLURE

POLLARD

LINCOLN GREEN

THE MEADOWS

NEWARK

THE PARK

DERBY

MORTON

HOCKLEY

SHERWOOD

MAGPIE

LINCOLN

SHIPSTONE'S

Your answers:

- GROUP 01:
- GROUP 02:
- GROUP 03:
- GROUP 04:

ANSWERS

- 01: Halls of Residence – Sherwood, Derby, Newark and Lincoln
- 02: Areas of Nottingham – The Meadows, Hockley, The Park, Wollaton
- 03: Female actors from Nottingham – (Su) Pollard, (Vicky) McClure, (Sherrie) Hewson, (Samantha) Morton
- 04: Nottingham Breweries – Castle Rock, Lincoln Green, Magpie, Shipstone's

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Thank you for all your generosity over the past year – no matter how you choose to give to Nottingham, every contribution makes a potentially life-changing difference. Here are some ways you can continue to be involved.



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To support a student at Nottingham, see the enclosed form or visit: [bit.ly/UoNScholarships](https://bit.ly/UoNScholarships)





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# Thank you



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