



STONYHURST FOUNDATION  
STONYHURST  
CLITHEROE  
LANCASHIRE BB7 9PZ

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**Launch of the Stonyhurst Foundation – a revolutionary new endowment for Stonyhurst.**

Today, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, marks the official public launch of the Stonyhurst Foundation.

Stonyhurst is the UK's leading co-educational Catholic boarding and day school for 3 – 18 year olds. Founded in 1593, it is the oldest continuously active Jesuit school in the world.

The Stonyhurst Foundation is a revolutionary new charity, focused exclusively on widening access to Stonyhurst. The goal of the Foundation is to remove financial barriers making a Stonyhurst education available to as many young people as possible.

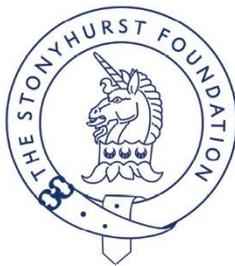
The Stonyhurst Foundation will be the largest ring-fenced independent bursary and fee assistance charity of its kind in Catholic independent education in the UK. It has received the Apostolic Blessing of His Holiness Pope Francis.

Today's public launch of the Foundation, on the feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, marks the commencement of a new era for the future of Stonyhurst. Already there has been overwhelming financial support from members of the Stonyhurst family who share the vision of providing much needed bursary and fee support for young people. Given the extent of early successes, the Foundation is looking to the future, confident that its ambitious mission will be welcomed by the wider community, ensuring that Stonyhurst continues to be a beacon of educational excellence on both the national and international stage.

*Stonyhurst Foundation Director, Stephen Withnell, commented:*

“A Stonyhurst education is a springboard to a life of purpose. The school seeks to inspire its pupils to go out into the world to make a difference, as ‘men and women for others’. Making Stonyhurst the best it can be means making the Stonyhurst Foundation the most ambitious provider of bursaries and fee assistance in Catholic education in the UK. The Stonyhurst Foundation will transform lives.”

Telephone: 01254 827276 Email: [foundation@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:foundation@stonyhurst.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.stonyhurstfoundation.org](http://www.stonyhurstfoundation.org)



*Mark Thompson, CEO of the New York Times and Stonyhurst Scholarship recipient commented:*

"I know from my own experience how Stonyhurst can change lives. World-class teachers like Peter Hardwick and Freddie Turner SJ opened my mind and the school gave me a confidence and independence that has served me well ever since. The Stonyhurst Foundation will make this unique education available to so many more young people, and that's why I am so pleased to endorse it."

*Genevieve Thornton, Prize winning Oxford University Historian and Stonyhurst bursary and scholarship recipient, commented:*

"Without the unique and inspiring teaching which I received at Stonyhurst, facilitated by bursary assistance, I may not have had the confidence to apply to, and make the most of my time at, the University of Oxford."

Around 30% of Stonyhurst College pupils receive fee assistance. The Stonyhurst Foundation will provide a ring-fenced independent fund to sustain and increase this level of assistance permanently.

The transformative work of The Stonyhurst Foundation has already started and the first recipients of bursaries have been identified and have commenced school.

Full details can be found at [www.stonyhurstfoundation.org](http://www.stonyhurstfoundation.org)

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## **Note to Editors**

### ***About the Stonyhurst Foundation***

The Stonyhurst Foundation is a revolutionary new independent charity established to widen access to a Stonyhurst education. It is unique: no other Catholic independent school has a comparable Foundation dedicated to widening access for the public benefit. It will grant fee assistance on both a 'means blind' and a 'means tested' basis.

### ***About Stonyhurst College***

Stonyhurst is the UK's leading co-educational Catholic boarding and day school for 3 – 18 year olds. Founded in 1593, it is the oldest continuously active Jesuit school in the world. It has an 800-strong student body comprising the 500 pupils of Stonyhurst College plus the 300 pupils at its preparatory school, Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall. Pupils come from throughout the United Kingdom as well as from abroad. The school offers the International Baccalaureate in addition to UK public examinations. Boarding is available from the age of seven. The school is located on a 1,000-acre rural estate near Clitheroe in Lancashire.

### **For More Information Contact:**

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