



*Peter Stock has supported our Appeal by making a major donation to our Sixth Form Centre. When asked what had prompted this decision, his response was:*

“Attending the recent Founders' Day celebration reminded me of some important values and traditions which certainly influenced my decision to support the Centenary Appeal.

BGS educate the boys and girls not only to be aware of the history of their grammar school but also to be thankful for it. They know their motto, Sanctas Clavis Fores Aperit, and are expected to stand by it. In a world where there is not always sufficient emphasis placed upon core traditional values and the importance of education in preserving what is good for the future, it seems to me an extremely worthwhile investment.

My own donation is for the sixth form centre but it has been the work carried out on the Kindergarten which has particularly impressed me and led me to my decision. This is a very prudently managed project and yet the scope of the building itself is ambitious - as anyone who walks down Bridge Road and sees it taking shape by the side of the Girls' Sports Hall can now see. To build what is effectively a whole new school at under £3 million is a clear indication of tight controls. At every stage the project is overseen by the Schools' Project Manager, Peter Skinner, who was also responsible for the Learning Resource Centre and the new Arts Centre in the Boys' School, and who is now designing the Sixth Form Centre for the pupils of both Schools.

My own daughter, Suzanne, attended BGS from 1980 - 1989. She thoroughly enjoyed her school years and I firmly believe that BGS instilled in her the confidence and self belief to succeed in everything she set out to do. In fact, she joined me at the recent Founders' Day celebration - her first for 19 years - and was delighted to see that whilst the School was maintaining its traditional values, it was also introducing new more modern threads into its great tapestry - one of these being the Sixth Form Centre. The new centre will provide a lecture theatre, joint social space and seminar rooms, all essential in giving the Sixth Formers the all so important additional independence.

I now have three grandchildren. Luke and Ben have enjoyed the Kindergarten and can look forward to the benefits of the new Sixth Form. My youngest grandson, Sam, hopes to attend the new reception class later next year. It is wonderful to see that as well as learning important skills of life such as good manners and the more obvious reading and writing, Luke and Ben are growing in confidence weekly. Their insatiable appetite for learning and zest for all things new - be it learning a musical instrument, playing in the sports team or singing in the choir - never ceases to amaze me. This alone is reason enough to give my support to the School.”

*Peter Stock has spent a lifetime in the textile industry and is arguably one of its most successful businessmen.*

*Peter was born in Rochdale. After an education at Rochdale Grammar School, he followed in his father's footsteps and joined Davey Kenyon's, one of the town's textile firms. After 20 years in the trade, working his way up the career ladder with the major groups such as Courtaulds and Coats Viyella, he branched out and purchased his own business, Pincroft Dyeing and Printing Company Ltd. 22 years later, his achievements speak for themselves. He has grown the company he*

*purchased in 1985 into a group of textile companies with a turnover of £54m. Rochdale Textile Supplies Ltd competes on a global scale, with offices in France and Germany and distributors in Russia, Canada and Australia, supplying fabric to over 47 different countries worldwide. The business, based in Lancashire, employs over 250 people and produces some 30 million metres of fabric a year. This fabric is made into garments and worn by a variety of workwear and corporatewear end users, including British Telecom, the NHS, Shell, BP, Honda, MacDonalds, London Ambulance, HM Prisons and Defence Organisations worldwide. In recent years, he has expanded his commercial interests to include investments in a variety of businesses where his entrepreneurial skills can contribute to their development. He puts his success down to a number of things - a good education, hard work and entrepreneurial spirit.*

We are delighted that the Stock Family have joined us as Appeal Patrons, giving us their full endorsement.