



Sir Peter Ogden is Founder and Chairman of The Ogden Trust, alumnus of Harvard Business School, co-founder of Computacenter plc and a major shareholder in Computacenter, Computasoft, Dealogic and Motorsport Vision. In February 2005 he was knighted for services to education. We are honoured that he has chosen to endorse our Centenary Appeal as a Patron and we are deeply grateful for his continued support of our Schools.

Sir Peter Ogden, in interview with Alexander Robinson and Agnetha Jones:

Sir Peter Ogden, founder of the Ogden Trust, was knighted last year for service to education. He is often described as a philanthropist and when questioned about this and his charitable work he modestly shrugs it off and responds that the ideology is almost bred into him.

Sir Peter was born in Rochdale; he gained a place at Rochdale Grammar School and from there went to Durham University to study Physics. This ultimately led to his PhD and then, under the influence of his Californian friend Bill Menard, he moved to Harvard to study for his MBA. He attributes this as the single most important factor behind his success in Business. It was during his time at Harvard that he developed the philosophy to 'Give Back', particularly to those institutions which have supported you.

It is because of this "Give Back" ideal that Sir Peter has chosen to support The Bury Grammar Schools in their "Centenary Appeal". When questioned further about his motivation, he confessed to succumbing to the most basic of human instincts, fear. "Sir Cyril Smith threatened me" he admitted in conversation. However he elaborated further, explaining that his cousin attended BGS; he considers it to be a good school and well worthy of support. When he received news of the Appeal he decided to give it his full endorsement, adding that he liked the Building Projects and the Bursary Appeal.

Sir Peter Ogden founded the Ogden Trust in 1999. Initially the Trust was established to finance bright individuals and give them the opportunity of attending a good school. Bury Grammar School was selected to be one of the participating schools and since 2001 the Trust has funded 8 pupils for the duration of their school career. This is a national venture involving many schools and is run in partnership with corporate sponsors. Over time the priorities of the Trust have changed slightly and it is now more targeted toward sciences, although it still works on the same principles.

As well as providing bursaries the Ogden Trust also runs a nationwide Business Competition each year. The Bury Grammar Schools have reached the National Finals in the last two years. The Ogden Trust also seeks to encourage students to continue their studies at university, especially in Maths and Physics. The Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics at Durham University has received major support from Sir Peter.

In the 2005 Sunday Times Rich List Sir Peter Ogden is ranked as the 17th most charitable person in the UK and in the top 5 for donations to Education having given all of the £22.5 million pounds raised from the sale of shares in the flotation of his company, Computacenter to set up the Ogden Trust. Since then he has made many donations to schools and universities from his own personal wealth, including many donations to Bury Grammar School, his only ideology, to give back all that was given to him.

“Entrepreneurs need to think responsibly about the distribution of their wealth. There is not much point in dying wealthy and leaving the problem to another generation. I chose education because it is so fundamental to the development of an individual”

“He is often described as a philanthropist” One can’t help but feel this statement is wholly underwhelming, perhaps “He is a true example of philanthropy, a person motivated solely by a genuine desire to improve the whole of mankind’s future” would be closer to the truth.

Alexander Robinson & Agentha Jones