The Chaudhary Scholarship Newsletter

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Welcome to our all-new Chaudhary Scholarship Newsletter.

Offering an insight into this exciting new initiative, we aim to keep you up to date with our work so far and how the scholarship is supporting up-and-coming young talent in the life sciences.

What is the Chaudhary Scholarship?

The Chaudhary Scholarship has been created to help support young people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds looking to build meaningful future careers in the life sciences. Those studying Biology, Human Biology and Applied Science at Bede Sixth Form College in Billingham can apply for small grants to assist with the purchase of equipment to enhance their studies such as IT equipment, publications and journals, assistance with travel and accommodation expenses for university visits and attendance of appropriate seminars and conferences.

New for the 2024/25 academic year, the scholarship has been launched by former Education Training Collective (Etc.) governor, Subhash Chaudhary MBE, following his retirement from a 50-year career at FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies and its predecessor companies, ICI, Zeneca, Avecia and MSD.

Subhash shares his inspiration

In this, the first edition of our scholarship newsletter, we caught up with Subhash Chaudhary MBE, founder of the initiative, to hear about his aims and inspiration.

Tell us how the idea of the Chaudhary Scholarship came about and your intentions behind it?

The Chaudhary Scholarship was born from a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities I've been fortunate enough to receive in my own life. These experiences opened doors I never imagined possible and shaped the person I am today. I believe in the power of giving back and 'paying it forward'. This scholarship is my way of ensuring young people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds can dream big and have the support they need to turn those dreams/ambitions into reality. At its core, it's about creating a fairer playing field and enabling the next generation to advance and succeed.

Why is it important?

The need for this scholarship feels especially pressing when you look at the data from the North East Child Poverty Commission. In 2024, they reported that the North-east has experienced the sharpest rise in child poverty over the past decade, with up to a third of all children and young people in our region living in poverty. I have also seen statistics over the last eight years, as a governor on the Etc. board, which confirms the increasing level of need to support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Through this scholarship, in a small way, I aim to support young people from these disadvantaged backgrounds—specifically those pursuing a career in the life sciences.

I deeply believe that education, along with health, is one of the most transformative gifts we can give to young people. It can open doors and improve their prospects in life. My hope is that this scholarship will provide not only financial support but also a sense of hope and possibility for their future, helping them secure a place in higher education or at university and beyond.

Why does this matter to you personally?

This cause is rooted in my own story. I was born into a family that had been displaced by the Partition of India. My grandparents and parents were refugees, and my early years were marked by a hand-to-mouth existence. I've experienced poverty firsthand and know how hard it can be to imagine, plan or even think about the future when survival feels like the main priority.

Subash celebrates the launch of the scholarship

That's why I feel so passionate about helping young people who find themselves in unfortunate circumstances today. I appreciate poverty in the North-east is not directly comparable to that in India, however I can imagine how hopeless it can feel in such situations.

What do you hope to achieve long-term through the Chaudhary Scholarship?

My ambition is to initially support 30-50 young people from financially disadvantaged backgrounds over the next three to five years. I hope to see some of them pursue university education and build meaningful careers. I have chosen Bede Sixth Form College, as the initial home of the scholarship, simply because Billingham is where I have spent most of my working career and the need for such a scholarship is paramount.

Long-term, I want this scholarship to be a catalyst for change—one that not only helps individuals but also inspires others to support causes like this and contribute to a brighter (and equal) future for all. There are a number of life science employers in the North-east and I hope they can benefit from the talent pipeline being created at Bede and provide career opportunities to attract and retain such talent locally.

Our work so far...

Joshua

Studies: A level Biology, Chemistry and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Joshua, 18, from Stockton, considers himself fortunate to have been accepted for the Chaudhary Scholarship. He says it has enabled him to attend educational trips and also helped to cover the cost of a personal laptop.

"This has really helped with my studies because previously, I was not able to access technology aside from my phone at home - which is not made for using documents and working. But now I've been able to access online resources for exam questions and revision materials at home."

Laiba

Studies: A level Biology, Psychology, and Applied Science

The Chaudhary Scholarship has helped support Laiba, 17, from Acklam, with the purchase of a laptop.

"This laptop has really helped me do my coursework at home and it made it so much easier for me to revise for my exams. It has been so helpful for me."

Kiya

Studies: Human Biology, Applied Science and Health & Social Care

A new laptop is making a huge difference for Kiya, also 17, from Acklam.

"So far, I am so happy with this laptop. It has truly benefited me throughout my first year of college and helped me be able to do a lot more work at home. Overall, I am super happy with it!"

We can't wait to share more of our student success stories with you in our future newsletters.

What you can do...

There are several meaningful ways businesses and supporters can help:

Provide opportunities - Offer internships and career opportunities for scholarship recipients. This will help bridge the gap between education and employment.

Donate - Contributions can help grow the scholarship to cover a wider cohort initially and in the medium to longer term a broader range of subjects and career paths, ensuring the scheme has long-term sustainability.

Subhash says: "It is early days, however, together, I believe, we can create a lasting impact."

Donations welcome!

If you would like to donate to the fund, payments can be sent (quoting ref. Chaudhary) to:

The Education Training Collective
Account ref: **03038327**
Sort Code: **20-82-26**

Successful student applicants so far...

Our initial aim is to support 30-50 young people. Updated each issue.