



# Protons and Positivity

**Former head boy Guneet Banga, Class of 1998, Rutherford, talks about his Island School days and why the next generation of change-makers inspires him.**

## Guneet Banga



Above: Guneet Banga

**S**andy Pescod!" When asked who is favorite teacher was Guneet didn't need a second to think about who had been the most supportive and inspiring. He said, "She was my Form Tutor for several years, and my GCSE and A-level Physics teacher. She really nurtured my love for Physics. She was also somebody I could talk to whenever I was having issues, in general. She always made time for me, guiding me throughout school."

As head boy, president of the student union, captain of the A-grade cricket team, and a member of the rugby and the football teams, Guneet threw himself into school life. "I loved Island School and every- thing about it. I never felt ostracised or bullied and I was always encouraged." "It [Island School] was an open and supportive environment that allowed me to learn and to be the best version of

myself. I think had I not had that environment, I wouldn't be where I am today or who I am today."

After graduating from Island School, Guneet studied at Princeton, majoring in Economics. As with most young people, Guneet found leaving home for the first time, to start a new life in a new country a difficult adjustment. "I remember my first night in the dorm room was terrifying. It was my first time away from home. I wore a turban at school, but before I went to Princeton, I cut my hair. So it was like I had a new identity, in a new country. It took me a while to adjust." "Princeton was challenging, but Island School gave me the necessary tools to thrive. Not only was school a melting pot for people, it was a place where people could be themselves. I was



Above: Guneet (right) receiving the Ted Wilson Trophy for his cricket team in 1998.

taught how to think and how to approach problems as opposed to what to think. I learnt how to accept other cultures, religions, nationalities and other points of view which I think prepared me very well for my studies at Princeton."

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Guneet moved back to Hong Kong after graduation and worked for Citi Group for 10 years before he joined his family's company, the Caravel Group.

"My father told us [my brother Angad and I] to work outside the family business for at least 10 years. So that we would gain a different international perspective on management, strategy and business and so we were not viewed simply as the bosses kids. My dad wanted my brother and I to actually create a name for ourselves, and build connections and a reputation."

Guneet's mantra is 'do good and do well.' It is this philosophy that is guiding his new business ventures in sustainable investments, particularly focused on climate change. "The do good comes first because I want to do something that has a positive impact. I try to live sustainably though I am not perfect." "The fact that schools are taking sustainability so seriously is having a huge impact. The next generation have

a sustainable mind set, they view the world through a lens of sustainability and act accordingly." "It's a good day when I have successfully completed or invested in a project that I know will bring positive change in the world. I get a lot out of meeting the next generation of changemakers, who are finding solutions to climate change or air pollution problems."

Guneet has invested in and is managing a climate technology focused fund that had it first close in the first quarter of 2022.

Guneet and the Banga Family became Back to Borrett Road Founding Patrons in 2021.