



Samantha Rowntree

Director of Development and Engagement

Oakham School

Samantha is the Director of Development and Engagement at Oakham School in Rutland, where she is responsible for fundraising and alumni relations. She moved into education in 2013 as the Director of External Relations, following a career working for John Lewis PLC in multiple department stores and, latterly, in Head Office roles. She is passionate about building relationships and the importance of good quality communication. She has particularly enjoyed seeing how the skills and knowledge from a commercial setting have translated so well into education.

From September, Samantha has moved into the new role of Director of Development and Engagement, to focus on major fundraising, building regular giving and developing and building relationships and opportunities with Alumni. In the last year, the (small!) team at Oakham reviewed what was offered and has significantly increased the events and introduced new opportunities for alumni to get involved and has seen a marked increase in alumni engagement.

Two of Oakham School's values are contribution and connection, and Samantha is passionate about facilitating the community to do both and to build on the 440-year-old legacy of the founder of Oakham School, who set the school up to offer free education to local children. The focus of the School's fundraising is to provide bursaries to children, but more recently, the opportunity to include some capital-building projects has emerged, opening the way for greater engagement and support.

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