

Isabelle Blake-James

Director of Development and Alumni Relations

St Dunstan's College

Isabelle worked for 10 years as a corporate lawyer at niche City law firm Pritchard Englefield (now Irwin Mitchell), working on cross border M&A deals before moving into non contentious probate and international tax for HNW individuals. As a second career, she freelanced as a highly skilled legal translator/interpreter, working for various law firms around the world as well as the anti-corruption arm of the United Nations based in Vienna to name but a few.

She joined St Dunstan's College in 2018 as a third career in the educational sector, first in a strategic role working as Director of Marketing, Admissions and Development which saw the roll of the College increase by 50% and St Dunstan's winning several awards, the most prestigious being the TES Independent Senior School of the Year in 2022.

She set up the College's first Development Office in 2020, gradually focusing solely on fundraising and alumni relations. With a small but very focused team, she raised just under £1M for the College through donations and legacies in 3 years, transforming the bursary provisions of the College. She is herself focusing on major donors and organised the College's first telephone campaign in August 2023. She won the Independent School of the Year Award (ISOTY) for Outstanding Fundraising Campaign in 2023. She is also an IDPE Trustee.