

The IDPE and Graham-Pelton US Study Tour 24 - 28 April 2017

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'If you are serious about embedding a culture of philanthropy within your school, then undertaking a study trip to the US is a vital part of the process. Visiting US institutions offers the opportunity for Heads and Directors of Development to experience first-hand how fundraising works in US schools. They will develop an appreciation of the problems and opportunities a development programme will create and how, together, they can meet challenges in their own communities to benefit current and future students.'

Andrew Beales, Development Director, Wakefield Grammar School Foundation
(undertook a study trip to Illinois in 2004)

The IDPE and Graham-Pelton US study tour took place between 24-28 April 2017. This tour provided a small group of development directors and their heads with a **unique insight into US schools' fundraising, through visits to a variety of schools in the New York/New Jersey area.** They will experience first-hand how fundraising works in the US, what lessons we can all learn from our Transatlantic "neighbours" and how they can adapt US fundraising to further develop philanthropy within their own schools.

Sarah Ritchie, Alumni and Development Director for Rydal Penrhos School will be joining the US Study Tour: *'We have been running annual fund campaigns since the end of 2012, and we are now at the early planning stages of a capital campaign. I am sure we will be able to learn a lot from the American schools, both in terms of fundraising and in continuing to improve our alumni, parent and community engagement. Schools in America do so well in this area, with hugely ambitious goals – I am looking forward to being inspired by them and I'm sure we will return with our heads full of ideas which we can adapt to suit our own campaigns.'*

Director of Foundation at Culford School, Jo Johnson-Munday, will also be joining the tour: *'We launched the Campaign for Culford in 2012 and have raised £1million in gifts and pledges to date; £750k of which went to building a landmark Library which opened in 2015. We are in the process of launching Phase II of the campaign to redevelop our art department. I am interested to learn more about how American schools go about fundraising from their school, alumni and wider community and how they engage with these different communities; I am aware that philanthropy in US schools is well established and I am keen to see their approach and, no doubt, be inspired by some new ideas.'*

You can find out more about the culture of philanthropy in US schools from Jo and Headmaster of Culford School, Julian Johnson-Munday at their **session at the IDPE 2017 Annual Conference.**

Find out more about the tour and what insights attendees are getting about US fundraising in schools - follow [#IDPEstudytour17](#) A blog from IDPE Chairman Glen Fendley will be published via the IDPE website following the tour:

