



Bridget McIntyre (nee Sutherland, BGS 1972-79) became UK Chief Executive Officer of Royal & SunAlliance in November 2005 where she is responsible for a business with over 10,000 employees. Prior to this appointment she worked for Norwich Union for 13 years in a variety of roles including Finance Director of the general insurance business. Bridget qualified as a chartered management accountant.

Despite the demands of a high-flying career, Bridget still has a busy life outside the office and we were thrilled when she agreed to become a Patron of The Way Forward Appeal.

Rebecca Allen, spent a day work shadowing Bridget McIntyre and writes:

Bridget McIntyre is an Old Girl of Bury Grammar School and visited last year before speaking at Prizegiving. Inspired by her speech at the event I contacted Bridget and, after shadowing her for the day in London, I am now working at insurance firm Royal & SunAlliance; where Bridget is the UK CEO.

Bridget left school slightly unsure as to what she wanted to do and swiftly fell into business, qualifying as a chartered management accountant. She may not have been typical of the traditional academic model of Bury Grammar School student, but an inkling of what was to come was evident in her running of the school Tuck Shop. Bridget left BGS with the confidence that she would succeed, knowing that she had the ability to carve her own path. She believes that her BGS education has played a very important part in her life.

Bridget has worked at many high profile companies, including Norwich Union and she was asked to join Royal & SunAlliance in 2005, as the UK CEO. As you can imagine this is a very high powered job and yet she proves that there is still time to smile when working in the City; I expect there are few other CEOs boasting a Take That calendar along with pink accessories in their office – evidence of Bridget's fun-loving nature.

There is clear evidence of Bridget's optimism and energy in the way she runs Royal & SunAlliance, making sure the company is clearly focused on the customer. Earlier in her career Bridget worked in a variety of finance roles at Volvo UK, the publisher Harper Collins and Marconi Radar Systems. She now lives in Suffolk, with her husband Chris and their dog, Berti.

Personally, I feel very privileged to be working for Royal & SunAlliance during my gap year and I know that it would have been very difficult to gain such interesting and useful experience without the help of BGS. It's wonderful that girls leave Bury Grammar School feeling happy to return and help current pupils realise their ambitions and I hope that more girls will benefit from such links in the future.