



## CLARENCE HOUSE

It gives me particular pride to be Patron of The David Rattray Foundation, which does such marvellous work to improve the lives of children in rural KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. I first met David Rattray in 1997 when I visited his enchanting lodge at Fugitives' Drift. David, using all his brilliance as a military historian and raconteur, brought alive the personal stories of the British and Zulu soldiers of the Anglo-Zulu War. I still remember being reduced to tears as we stood on the battlefields of Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana, which today are largely unchanged.

David was not just an historian, but also an optimist; he believed in a bright future for the Zulu people and he committed to making this a reality by supporting the schools in his area through the Foundation. David's unexpected passing in 2007 was an utter tragedy not just for his family, but also the Zulu people and South Africa as a whole. It is a credit to David's wife, Nicky, the Rattray family and the rest of the team at the David Rattray Foundation that they did not shy away from David's commitment to the local community at such a desperately difficult time. Instead, since then, they have redoubled the Foundation's efforts. As their Patron, I am proud to say that the Foundation is now supporting children from pre-school through to their final exams, and the schools are delivering some of the top results in the region.

Today the Foundation's implementing team, KHULA Education, supports twenty local schools affording children the opportunity of a quality education. It covers an area from Elandskraal, through Rorke's Drift and Nqutu, to Isandlwana, encompassing 6,000 children and young people in the most isolated and marginalised areas in the Province, with 80% unemployment and 60% of families living below the poverty line.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, like so many schools across the world, the classrooms supported by the David Rattray Foundation closed, but the Foundation's brilliant team acted immediately to ensure that the children could continue their education. I am delighted to say that David's optimistic spirit lives on through the Foundation, which continues its work under the mantra "School is closed, but learning is open."