**Medal of Honour winners**

**Nick Bent and Abigail Shapiro (conferred together in 2024)**

In 2010 Abigail Shapiro and Nick Bent founded the Tutor Trust charity to tackle educational inequality through tutoring, by making sure every child who needs additional academic support can access a great tutor.

Tutor Trust recruit and train tutors, predominantly students and graduates from local universities, in the core subjects of Maths, English and Science and place them in state schools. Their tutors are paid competitive rates and receive extensive training and ongoing support.

Born in Manchester, Tutor Trust is now the leading such charity in the UK and operates across Greater Manchester, Leeds-Bradford and Merseyside.

Since its inception, Tutor Trust have partnered with 500 schools, reached over 20,000 pupils, trained more than 3,000 tutors and delivered 120,000 hours of tutoring. An independent Randomised Control Trial (RCT) showed that pupils experiencing its tutoring made an additional three months of educational progress after just 12 hours of tutoring.

The co-founders share the University’s commitment to social responsibility and civic engagement. Around 70% of their tutors in Greater Manchester are from the University of Manchester. They have helped develop important employability skills, feed quality students into our PGCE and offered our students opportunities to demonstrate their social and civic responsibility.

**Justin Watson (conferred in 2024)**

Justin Watson has worked in the third sector since 2002, primarily in youth and community development, focusing on participation, engagement and campaigning, most recently as Director of Young Manchester (Home (youngmanchester.org)). He spent 7 years at Save the Children, leading their youth engagement and campaigning work around child poverty, supporting a network of young campaigners across the UK to influence at local and national levels, before moving to Oxfam to head up the development of their domestic programme in 2014, focusing on women’s economic empowerment, food insecurity and inequality.

He is a Trustee of Greater Manchester Poverty Action. In his spare time Justin volunteers for Reform Radio and is now CEO of Young People’s Foundation Trust (Home page YPF Trust).

It is primarily for Justin’s time at Young Manchester that he was nominated, leading a huge change to the way the youth and play sector in the city is co-ordinated, encouraging strategic and partnership-working across the city. Justin oversaw the transition in Manchester to a Young Person’s Trust model of strategic commissioning of youth and play whilst bringing in huge additional investment to an under-resourced sector.