



Wimbledon College

The School Fund

2007 - 08

Head Master's Introduction

For the first time, we are providing parents with a short annual report on the Wimbledon College School Fund.

The School Fund exists to raise funds which are additional to the Government's funding of the school. Parents will be well aware that Wimbledon College offers so much more than many schools (our extensive sports programme, music and drama, the Chapel and chaplaincy programme, and the annual upgrading and development of facilities). This is only possible because of the generosity of all who contribute to the School Fund.

Each year when I write to new parents, I ask them to contribute to the School Fund. As a guide, we are suggesting a monthly donation of £30 per family. Some afford more and some are not able to give anything. We are grateful for every donation and for other forms of support from those not able to make a financial commitment.

I also make clear to parents that their contributions are used to enhance provision and not to make up for any inadequacies in government funding. The School Fund is used to provide new and additional opportunities for the boys which could never be supported from the main school budget. The School Fund is part of the Jesuit Trust and as such is a registered charity.

I hope you find this report helpful in understanding what funding is available to the school and how it is used.

Head Master

The School Fund

Parents gave a total of £116,908 to the School Fund this year (April 2007 to April 2008). £113k was paid in instalments by Standing Order and £3k in one-off donations.

Many parents have completed the Gift Aid form and so we have been able to reclaim £32,974 in tax from the Government.

This means the School Fund raised a **grand total of £149,882** this year (April 07 to April 08).

Contributors

This year there were 1254 pupils in the school from 1090 families.

Of these families, 434 have contributed to the School Fund and a further 25 to the Building Funds.

149 families have contributed in the past but not this year. 389 families have not responded to requests to contribute and 93 have written saying that they are unable to do so. Many of these support the school in other ways. We do write to non-contributors and urge them to contribute if they are able to do so.

Funded Projects 2007-08

The School Fund continues to support the programme of **major sports** (£18,000). Last year we extended provision to include **swimming** alongside the establish sports of rugby, cricket and athletics. This year we added **basketball** and were delighted that our U16 team made it to the national finals in their first season.

Minor sports continue to attract a large number of boys and received funding of £5000.

The **Chaplaincy Programme** is at the heart of the school and ensures there is an active Christian life in which boys are invited to participate. This ranges from daily Mass and whole-school liturgies to the India Project. The Chaplaincy Programme includes the salaries of the chaplain and Head of Chaplaincy and received some £76,000 this year.

Drama and music continue to develop, involving ever-increasing numbers of boys. We now have a flourishing Saturday Music School, have run opera days for local primary schools, and the Strings Project for Figures boys is in its third year and continues to attract over 50 boys some of whom go on to form the backbone of our school orchestra and ensembles. This year we have staged three major plays: Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, Tony Harrison's *Mysteries*, and Andrew Lloyd-Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. The standards of production and performance have been high

and this costs money. However, the plays are now attracting full audiences and will soon pretty much pay for themselves. The School Fund contribution to music and drama this year was around £15,000. The **swimming pool** receives no government funding and is entirely supported by the School Fund.

Last summer we carried out a **major renovation programme** of some of the oldest and most worn parts of the school. We gutted two floors and created new classrooms for humanities. The classrooms were completely refurbished with new furniture, data projectors, boards and carpets. The transformation was impressive and the boys have enjoyed their new environment. We intend to continue with this refurbishment on a rolling programme.

We also renovated the **Sixth Form Common Rooms** and created a new serviced **Café** for them. Sixth Form pupils have been expected to contribute a £30 Common Room Fee to the upkeep of these outstanding new facilities. All of this has been in line with the principle that the School Fund is used to enhance the experience of pupils directly. The Café is already more than paying for itself!

The cost of these major developments was around £312,000 (borne from government capital income as well as the School Fund and other donations).

Funded Projects 2008-09

The School Fund will continue to support the activities of the school:

- the chapel and chaplaincy programme
- the major and minor sports programmes
- the swimming pool
- music and drama
- extra-curricular activities
- the three school minibuses

Planned major renovations and developments for 2008-09 include:

- a new **IT design facility** for the art department
- a new **servery for the refectory** together with **promotion of healthy eating** options
- an **inclusion centre** for boys presenting challenging behaviour and at risk of exclusion
- renovation of the remaining **humanities classrooms** and all of the **modern languages classrooms**
- extension and development of the **fitness room**

Other Income

Income from **lettings of the school's facilities** (such as the swimming pool, field, sports hall, and auditorium) brought in around £102,000 last year.

The **Jesuit Trustees** (the British Province of the Society of Jesus) continue to support the school and have converted a long-term loan of £260,000 into a gift which means this money does not now need to be repaid and can be used for new projects. The Trustees have also agreed an annual £100,000 gift to assist with the upgrading of the College buildings for the next five years.

The local **Jesuit Community in Wimbledon** also supports the school. Its donations are principally aimed at supporting the Chapel and Chaplaincy programme, and providing funds which make it possible for boys from less well off families to participate fully in the life of the school (this ranges from buying shoes to subsidising school trips). Last year, the Jesuit Community contribution was £110,000.

VA 10%

Voluntary Aided (VA) schools are still required to contribute 10% of all capital expenditure. This is the “price” that church schools have to pay for their small degree of independence within the state sector.

The 10% comes from the School Fund. Last year this cost was £43,400. In the coming year we have to meet very substantial capital costs (including the building and installation of a new electrical transformer) and will need to find in the region of £70,000.

We explain to new parents that in choosing a Catholic Voluntary Aided school for their sons, they need to consider their part in raising the 10% cost to the Catholic community.

The Building Funds

The previous Head Master, Fr Holman SJ, set up two appeal funds in 2002/03 and 2004 to build the new Music School and support other developments. In each case, parents were asked to contribute for seven years finishing in 2010 and 2011. The Music School opened in the summer of 2005 and has been tremendously successful. Our musical activities have grown hugely and now include a Saturday Music School and the *Strings Project* for fifty Figures boys each year. Musical productions, including *West Side Story*, *Les Misérables* and the *Mikado*, have been produced to an increasingly high standard and involved many more boys. Next year, we will be performing Brecht's *Galileo* and Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*.

It is anticipated that the building funds will eventually raise in the region of £925,000. However, it is important that contributors do not think the fundraising is complete and cancel their standing orders. We are relying on promised donations continuing to 2010/11 to ensure we are not left with a debt on the Music School.