



Wimbledon College

The School Fund Annual Report 2008 - 09

Head Master's Introduction

Last year, for the first time, we produced a short report on the School Fund. This was welcomed by parents, many of whom contribute to the fund, and so I am pleased again this year to provide you with an 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 suggest a monthly donation of £30 per family. Some families can afford more and some are not able to give anything. We are grateful for every donation of whatever size and for other forms of support from those not able to make a financial commitment.

School Fund contributions are used to enhance provision and not to make up for any inadequacies in government funding. The School Fund provides 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 and eligible to reclaim tax on contributions under the Gift Aid scheme.

I hope you find this report helpful in understanding what funding is available to the school, how it has been used in the past year, and how we plan to use it in the coming year.

Fr Adrian Porter SJ
Head Master

The School Fund

Parents gave a total of £123,338 to the School Fund this financial year (April 2008 to April 2009). This represents a significant increase on the previous year (up from £116,908). £117,598 was paid in instalments by Standing Order (an increase from £113k the previous year) and £5,740 in one-off donations (increasing from £3k).

Many parents have completed the Gift Aid form and so we have been able to reclaim £34,787 in tax from the Government (up from £32,974 last year).

This means the School Fund raised a **grand total of £158,126** this year (£149,882 last year).

Contributors

This year there were 1225 pupils in the school from 1068 families. The Sixth Form is slightly smaller this year but expected to expand again in September with the new Y12 intake.

Of these families, 463 have contributed to the School Fund (up from 434 last year) and a further 38 families continue to donate to the Building Funds.

194 families have contributed to the School Fund in the past but not this year. 226 families have not responded to requests to contribute (significantly down from 389 last year) and 104 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.

The two building fund appeals which were launched by my predecessor some years ago will both come to an end in the next 18 months. These funds are paying for the new Music School (opened summer 2005) and for the extensive upgrading of IT facilities. As the appeal funds come in, the loans which funded these major developments will be repaid.

Funded Projects 2008-09

The School Fund continues to support the programme of **major sports**. We aim to provide a full fixture programme and training schedule for each of the five major sports: athletics, basketball, cricket, rugby and swimming. The total cost of funding major sports this year was around £19,000.

The running costs of the **swimming pool** are met by hiring the pool to outside clubs. This maintains the pool as a significant resource for PE and for our increasingly successful swimming team.

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. The *Kairos* Retreat was introduced in March 2009 and is an important development in encouraging Sixth Form pupils to reflect on themselves, their relationships and the place of God in their lives. The India Project continues to be a major work of the school overseas with pupils raising large amounts of money to fund their travel to India and funds for the development of the schools and housing for the *Dalit* (the *Untouchables*) in one of the poorest regions of the world.

Drama and music continue to develop, involving ever-increasing numbers of boys. We now have a flourishing Saturday Music School and the Strings Project for Figures boys is in its fourth year and continues to attract over 40 boys some of whom go on to form the backbone of our school orchestra and ensembles. Singing has developed greatly over the past year and now warrants its own Song Recital evening alongside the already established and hotly contested Music Competition.

This year we have staged three major plays: Brecht's *Life of Galileo*, Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, and Lower Line boys will perform *Dracula Spectacular* in the summer. We are also entering a national Shakespeare festival with *The Tempest* in the autumn. The standards of production and performance have been high and this costs money. However, the plays are now attracting full audiences and cover their performance costs. The School Fund contribution to the development of music and drama this year was around £15,000.

Among the projects funded by the School Fund in the past year were:

- A new **IT design facility** for the art department – this has provided a dozen computers in a completely renovated room for art, accessible as a resource from both art rooms.
- A new **servery for the refectory** together with **promotion of healthy eating** options – this has been a major hit with the boys and numbers using the refectory have increased greatly. Unlike many schools, the refectory makes a profit and all of this money is reinvested to expand menu choices, subsidise promotions, and improve the standard of catering and service.
- An **inclusion centre** for boys presenting challenging behaviour and at risk of exclusion has been established and staffed. This has been a major success in tackling poor behaviour and school refusal and ensuring some of our most vulnerable boys are properly cared for and educated. The centre also reduces poor behaviour elsewhere in the school which significantly benefits all pupils. The annual cost of staffing the inclusion centre is around £50k. A number of parents also provide voluntary support in the inclusion centre and in the special needs department. We are deeply grateful for their much-needed help.
- Renovation of the remaining **humanities classrooms** and all of the **modern languages classrooms**. This has been completed and the vast majority of teaching rooms are now recently decorated, properly equipped with IT facilities and have new furniture and carpets.
- A new **electrical transformer** was installed and housed at the front of the school. For many years the electricity supply has been unreliable (with lights flickering on and off and fuses blowing), this huge investment (c£500k) has sorted out these problems. Most of the funding

has come from government but the school has had to meet 10% of the cost plus significant additional costs for renewal of switchgear, fuse boxes and earthing around the whole site.

We intend to continue with this refurbishment on a rolling programme so that all teaching rooms are well maintained and pleasant to teach and learn in.

Funded Projects 2009-10

In the coming year, the School Fund will continue to support:

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

Planned major renovations and developments for 2009-10 include:

- the renovation of the **Chapel** to mark its centenary in 2010
- establishing and supporting a programme of **international exchanges** with Jesuit schools in Europe
- a new building which will accommodate a room for teaching **cookery** (required for all Y7-9 boys from September 2010), a specialist **sports science** teaching room, and a new **fitness suite**
- the renovations of the two **art rooms** together with the provision of a **Sixth Form art space**
- the renovation of the seven **English classrooms**, corridors and stairwell
- refurbishment of aging **heating systems** in some parts of the school
- the necessary upgrading of our **telephone and cctv systems**

The renovation of the Art and English rooms this summer, more or less concludes the total overhaul of all teaching areas of the school and will allow us to put in place a permanent six-year rolling programme of decoration and maintenance for the whole school site from the summer of 2010.

Other Income

Income from **lettings of the school's facilities** (such as the swimming pool, field, sports hall, and auditorium) brought in around £70,000 this year.

The **Jesuit Trustees** (the British Province of the Society of Jesus) continue to support the school and made a grant of £100,000 to assist with the upgrading of the College buildings. This was the first of five annual £100k grants totalling half-a-million pounds. The Trustees are also currently providing an

interest-free loan of £470k to cover building works and IT renewal until the building fund appeals mature.

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 £60,000.

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. This year the cost was around £65,000.

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.

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.

Thank You

The College is enormously grateful to all those parents and former pupils, and to the Jesuits, who make such generous donations which allow the school to provide so much to its pupils.

We are also grateful to those who administer the funds: John Austin, Jan Philips, Marie Millington and Ian Gordon. And to the Governors, and especially the members of the Finance Committee, who provide oversight and expertise with the administration of the School Fund and Building Funds.