



Wimbledon College

The School Fund

Annual Report 2009 - 10

Head Master's Introduction

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 £36 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.

We have faced a particular problem this year with some families cancelling or reducing their contributions to the School Fund. This is very understandable in the light of uncertain economic times and we remain grateful to them for their contributions.

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. Previous annual reports are available on the College website.

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.

Fr Adrian Porter SJ
Head Master

The School Fund

Parents gave a total of **£133k** to the School Fund this financial year (April 2009 to March 2010). This represents a significant increase on the previous year (up from £123k which itself was a significant increase on the previous year).

Many parents have completed the Gift Aid form and so we are likely to reclaim **£35k** in tax from the Government. The final figure is still being calculated.

This means the School Fund raised a **grand total of £168k** this year (up on £158k last year).

Funded Projects 2009-10

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 £26k.

Cricket has been our focus of development this year. We have built seven outdoor cricket nets on the edge of the field (cost £64k) which will vastly increase the practice time boys have before and after school and during lunchtimes. We have also engaged professional cricket coaching to improve the boys' standard of cricket.

A particular success this year was the U13 Rugby Sevens team winning the national sevens tournament – the first time a College team has done so.

Minor sports continue to attract a large number of boys and received funding of £5000. Our U16 Football team did especially well, winning the Surrey County Championships, and three of our wrestlers won gold in the Southern England Wrestling Championships.

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. The total cost of funding the Chaplaincy this year was £68k (which includes salaries).

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 fifth 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. The College also participated in a joint concert performing Fauré's *Requiem* with six other Jesuit schools.

This year we have staged three major plays: *Dracula Spectacula!*, *Toad of Toad Hall*, and the Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls*. We are also entered a national Shakespeare festival with *The Tempest* in January and receive many plaudits. The standards of production and performance have been high and this costs money. The plays attract full houses and the ticket income is used to cover part of production costs.

The School Fund contribution to the development of music and drama this year was around £11k.

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

- renovation of the **College Chapel** to mark its centenary in 2010
- the equipping of a **model railway club** for pupils with significant special needs
- the renovations of the two **art rooms** together with the provision of a **Sixth Form art space**
- the renovation of the seven **English classrooms**, a Head of Faculty office, three bookstores, corridors and stairwell
- the refurbishing of three classrooms for **Sixth Form teaching**
- the refurbishing of one room for Y10 and Y11 boys following the **PEC vocational course**
- refurbishment of aging **heating systems** in some parts of the school
- the necessary upgrading of our **telephone** and **cctv systems**
- **upgrading our IT network** with new servers, switches and cabling
- the creation of a **new vehicle gate and improved vehicle access**
- supporting **Prize Giving** (Summer 2009) when the sponsor pulled out at the last moment

The School Fund also provides modest support (this year around £5k) for pupils from families who simply cannot afford school uniform and participation in school activities and trips.

Funded Projects 2010-11

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 developments for 2010-11 include:

- seven new **outdoor cricket nets**
- additional **professional cricket coaching**
- a programme of **international exchanges** with Jesuit schools in Europe (Colegio Jesuitas Tudela in Spain and La Caousou Toulouse in France)
- a new building which will accommodate a room for teaching **cookery** (required for all Y7-9 boys from September 2011), a specialist **sports science** teaching room, and a new **fitness suite**
- renovation of our **sports pavilion at Coombe Lane**
- funding of **additional places in the Sixth Form**

Other Income

Income from **lettings of the school's facilities** (such as the swimming pool, field, sports hall, classrooms and auditorium) brought in around £83k this year (up by around £13k on last year). This is very good news as our own growing sports programme (especially swimming and basketball) has meant that we

are making much more use of the Sports Hall and Swimming Pool and have therefore had to reduce their availability to outside hire. We are especially grateful to Mrs Brenda Wright, our Facilities Manager, who is responsible for lettings.

The **Jesuit Trustees** continue to support the school and have made the third of five annual grants of £100,000 to assist with the upkeep of the College buildings and grounds.

We have repaid two instalments (£120k + £120k) of a 2005 interest-free loan from the Trustees which provided new IT infrastructure and computers. The Trustees have cancelled £90k of the remaining loan which leaves us with £140k to repay in May 2011. At this point the College will have no debt.

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.

We have done some restoration work on the College Chapel which celebrates its centenary this year. The original plan was to launch an appeal for the Chapel. However, it was felt that in the present economic climate and with the increased generosity of parents' contributions to the School Fund, that it was better not to do so. A number of people have made contributions specifically for the Chapel which totalled £2,426. Any further contributions are, of course, most welcome.

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 £31,000.

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

Two appeal funds were established 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 new Music School opened in 2006.

The appeals have so far raised **£918,973** and remain on course to reach their target of £925,000 next year. 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.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Mr Ian Gordon who has administered the appeal funds and continues to chase donations through to the bitter end!

