



Wimbledon College

The School Fund

Annual Report 2022 - 23

Headteacher's Introduction

I am pleased to provide you with an annual report on the Wimbledon College School Fund. 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. The School Fund is essential to the future development of the school, providing the opportunity for parents to support the school through modest, regular gifts, which in turn will provide your son with equipment, enhanced opportunities and experiences that are not funded from within the routine expenditure budget.

State schools across the country have seen a shrinking budget with rising costs and cuts to grants. The result has been less money to spend on each pupil and an impact on the ability to maintain older buildings which are now in dire need of repair, refurbishment and replacement. The school environment can have a huge impact on students' morale and helps us to create the atmosphere of high expectations, in which students can learn and they can be proud to spend time in.

During a recruitment crisis in teaching we have been successfully retaining exceptional staff. Staff costs make up an increasing proportion of our budget. If we are to ensure that the advantageous conditions which we have always offered our pupils can continue — well-qualified staff for an unmatched extensive extra-curricular opportunity — it is incumbent upon us to consider what we can do to make the School Fund a success.

Parents will be well aware that Wimbledon College offers so much more than many schools. It is only possible because of the decades of generosity of parents, alumni and friends who are willing to make an investment in the school that we can today benefit from the superb facilities and wide range of educational opportunities. The funds available to develop our school field this year is an excellent example of **'paying forward'** and **'giving back'**.

Each year we ask, through the youngest boy from each family, for parents to contribute to the School Fund. As a guide, we suggest a monthly donation of £38 per family. Some families have donated at much higher levels and some are not able to give anything. We are grateful for every donation of whatever size.

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 today and in the future. The total donations of **£113k**

to the School Fund 2022-23. Many parents have completed the Gift Aid form and so we are likely to reclaim **£22.6k** in tax from the Government. This means the School Fund raised a **grand total of £135.6k**.

Funded Projects 2022-23

Among the projects funded in the past year are:

- Replacement of Main School Roof (MFL block) (90% DfE Grant Awarded)
- Replacement of flat roof x 3 areas (90% DfE Grant Awarded)
- Remodelling 6th Form offices (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)
- Repairs to defective concrete in Swimming pool (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)
- Complete refurbishment of Lower Line Toilets (Parental Donations)
- New Boiler at Coombe Lane Sports Pavilion (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)
- Fire Alarm upgrade and extension (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)
- LED lighting installed, 6th form, Humanities, MFL & Main hall (90 % DfE energy grant awarded)

Parent contributions to the school fund have enabled successes extracurricular **Sport** throughout year groups. Sport is an important part of boy's lives, it is a great way to not only relieve stress of exams and school lessons but also as a way to prove they can manage their time, energy and effort in their future lives.

The **all-weather surface** will be a real asset and will be of benefit to both curriculum PE and Games and to extra-curricular sport. The project involves levelling the playing surface as well as installing a complete drainage system. The latter will ensure that drainage will be far superior to what it has been up to now. We also have permission to install floodlighting, which will enable sporting activities to continue later in the winter months.

Rugby The autumn season played 170 fixtures over 12 weeks. Fielding over 21 teams and improving our win percentage on the previous season. We are still below our overall percentage pre-covid but we will continue to build, get stronger and develop as we move forward. It gives me great pride to see how many teams and fixtures we regularly put out on a Saturday. This is only possible due to the dedication, commitment and effort of all involved, especially the staff who without them, this extra-curricular provision would not be possible. A huge thank you to them, I sincerely hope your child has enjoyed the experience of playing and challenging themselves against some of the best schools in the south east of England. It is a tough fixture card but we hope that the overall experience is beneficial for your child in all areas of physical, mental and social health.

Football - Once again, the infamous British weather played havoc with the football season as a number of fixtures fell foul of the unpredictable and barmy climate that we have now come accustomed to in February and March. A big disappointment to all those involved, especially knowing how much effort and hard work so many pupils and staff had put into preparing for the season. Nevertheless, a number of fixtures did avoid cancellation and once again our teams demonstrated and showed the talent and quality that we have within the school.

Cricket. We welcome Figures students who are starting their cricket journey at the College, or perhaps even experiencing this fantastic sport for the first time. We look forward to Winter nets starting up again after Christmas and hopefully a successful Summer season after Easter. All boys are welcome whether first timers or experienced cricketers.

Swimming team Swimming club has had a successful start to the season- competing and hosting galas against 12 other schools. We have proudly entered teams from Year 7 right through to Sixth form with our most successful team, the

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U14s nearly winning every race they competed in. An exciting addition to the aquatics programme is the introduction of Water Polo for all ages. The school welcomes pupils from year 7 through to sixth form to training every Wednesday, and looks forward to putting a strong junior and senior team together to compete against other schools in our area.

Athletics: Our winter Athletics programme, which included Cross Country, Road Running, Sports hall Athletics and Indoor Athletics. Over the course of the season teams and/or individuals represented in the College in thirteen different competitions. These included; The London Youth Games Cross Country Championship, The London Mini Marathon, The Surrey County Sports Hall Athletics Series and The Simmonds Cup Winter Championship. Our Year 7 Sports hall Athletics Team came 3rd in the Merton Borough Sports hall Athletics Championship. They also competed in the Surrey Sports hall Athletics Series, from which three pupils attended County trials and one, Hamish [Rudiments], has been selected for the Surrey team.

Boxing Club and Basketball These Sports continue to be extremely well attended and enjoyed by all those who take part.

The total cost of funding for sports this year was around £65k.

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 **Jesuit Trustees** continue to support the school by funding Chaplaincy Expenditure.

Music continues to play an important role in the life of the College. The busy extra-curricular timetable includes choirs, orchestras and ensembles for boys who wish to play pop or rock music. The music school facilities are used every day by boys who wish to practice either on their own or in groups. The Strings Project continues to flourish and boys are given the opportunity to learn the violin, viola, cello and double bass. This is entirely subsidised by the College and it has enabled boys to discover and enhance their musical talents. Instrumental lessons are given to an ever-increasing number of pupils, with a good uptake from the new Figures pupils - again utilising the Music School practice rooms to the full.

Our St Cecilia's Concert was held in November. The concert featured the return of the House Music Competition as well as performances by the College Orchestra and the College Swing Band. It is pleasing that the re-establishment of the College Orchestra is progressing well, post Covid. The year was rounded off with a choir tour of Tuscany, with a final performance in the Franciscan church of Ognissanti, Florence.

The **Drama Department** students took part in the National Theatre's annual, nationwide youth theatre festival. National theatre connections festival commissions new plays for the selected youth theatres and schools to perform in a professional theatre in the UK.

The students performed 'Model Behaviour' at our partner theatre, The Lyric Hammersmith. The group had a full house for their performance and gave a brilliant performance.

"I really enjoyed going up to the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith to watch the students perform in Model Behaviour. Each student portrayed their character so well, with some very funny lines, and excellent pace and action. It was very exciting to see the play come to life, and to see the confidence and professionalism of the students involved. They clearly had a great time on stage! Miss Moore had directed them so well, with the help of Mr Stevenson, and brought out really

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excellent performances. Members of the public who joined us to watch them also had a really good time. Well done to the whole cast!" (Reviews)

Enrichment opportunities

Over the course of the year a variety of enrichment activities have been taking place in addition to all of our regular clubs and activities.

Our Lower Line **Poetry** by Heart poetry performance winners were Nathan, Philip and Paul. Congratulations to them and we wish them well as their entries have been uploaded to the National Finals.

Maths Paul was also successful in our Pi recital competition [which took place on 14 March - I will leave you to work out why], where pupils were challenged to recite the decimal version of Pi to as many decimal places as possible. Paul achieved a new school record recalling Pi to 107 decimal places.

Our two **Jack Petchey** Speak Out winners, Evan and Charlie, both in Year 10, went on to compete in the Merton regional finals where they performed very well.

The Year 9 '**Senior Aspirations**' group enjoyed a specially-adapted performance of The Tempest at The Globe while our Year 10 group had a great time at the riotous historical musical, Six. We have also had two successful A Level trips to Hamlet and Titus Andronicus.

Warhammer Club had their first tournament involving dice, strategy and a bit of luck!

Free Porridge was introduced last October, concerned that many families were being affected by high energy bills and cost of living crisis. Free porridge is available to all students who arrive early and need a good breakfast. It provides essential nutrients and benefits that can improve a concentration and performance at school. We looking to extend to a range of additional toppings.

The School Fund also provides modest for pupils from families who simply cannot afford school uniform and participation in school activities and trips.

Annual Appeal for Projects 2023-24

We endeavour to implement building improvements as quickly as possible so that parents who give will see their own sons benefiting from their contributions. Donations will of course benefit future generations too. This corresponds with the School's ethos, which encourages boys to support causes as men for all others.

In the coming year, the School Fund will continue to support a range of interests and activities:

The chaplaincy programme, Sport, Performing Arts & Extra-curricular activities

Planned facilities developments for 2023-4 include:

- 3G rugby all-weather pitch (Fundraising from parents, alumni, friends and trustees of the College)
- Swimming Pool Roof (Donations from Trustees)
- Flooring Maths & Humanities (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)
- Replacement Ceilings (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)
- Playground re-surfacing (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)
- Concrete Repairs to English & Science Block (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)
- Electrical remedial works (Donations from parents, alumni and friends of the College)

The annual appeal allows parents to participate in something your sons will see as a result of your donation, with your help and support they can be realised within a year. Your gift can make a genuine difference, immediately adding value to the quality of your boy's education.

Other Income

Income from **lettings of the school's facilities** (such as the swimming pool, field, sports hall, classrooms and auditorium) brought in around £86.4k this year. We are especially grateful to Mrs Brenda Wright, our Facilities Manager and Mrs Jaki-O'Neil-Ford (Finance), who organise lettings.

Friends of Wimbledon College – Donation of £2k towards hexagonal tree benches for the garden at front of school.

The **Society of Jesus** donated £100k towards Maintenance funding, improvement and capital costs of school buildings.

VA 10%

Voluntary Aided (VA) schools are still required to contribute 10% of all capital expenditure grants. 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. 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.

Making a gift that is right for you

We encourage you to consider making a gift at a level that is right for you and your family, taking your existing commitments into account. We suggest a monthly donation of £38 per family. We ask that the period of contribution should be refreshed, with a new replacement standing order, on entry of the youngest sibling.

Consider a Monthly Gift	Your pledge Annually	Annual from HMRC	Total Annual Covenant contribution
£100	£1,200	£300	£1,500
£75	£900	£225	£1,125
£50	£600	£150	£750
£38	£456	£91.20	£547.20
£30	£360	£90	£450

Your gifts, combined with those of other parents and members of our community, will enable us to maintain the exceptional standard of education offered to those who attend Wimbledon College, both now and in the future. Our ambition is to provide a learning environment that enables pupils to fully realise their academic and extra-curricular potential and for our facilities to continue to be among the best in the state sector.

Regular Gifts – are one of the most powerful ways to support Wimbledon College, these can be made monthly, quarterly or annually for any number of years. By making a Standing order donation, you provide Wimbledon College with a regular income that enables us to plan for the future and enables you to manage your giving most efficiently.

Single Gifts – By bank transfer or by cheque.

Matched Gifts – many companies worldwide match the donations their employees make to charities. Ask your HR department whether they would sponsor this scheme and increase your gift to us at no expense to yourself.

Payroll Giving – (also known as Give As You Earn or workplace giving) is a flexible scheme which allows anyone who receives their pay through payroll to give regularly and on a tax free basis to the charities and good causes of their choice. Check with your employer if they have a Payroll Giving scheme in place. (Charities trust Reference CT35613)

Gifts in Wills - All of us have causes and institutions dear to our hearts and for many of us Wimbledon College is one of them. A gift or donation is a highly personal way of giving by parents, former pupils and other well-wishers and this has made a lasting impact on opportunities it provides for future generations of pupils. Leaving a bequest to the school (an exempt charity) provides a lasting memorial of your generosity ensuring that your support continues into the future and can lessen the burden of Inheritance Tax on your loved ones. Making a will ensures that your wishes will be respected after your death. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of making a bequest to Wimbledon College please contact the school's Business Manager sbm@wimbledoncollege.org.uk

Gift Aid/Corporate Tax – Wimbledon College is able to reclaim tax (currently 25%) on your gift, at no extra cost to you. For a gift to be made by Gift Aid, you need to pay UK Income or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that Wimbledon College will reclaim on your donations in the tax year. Higher rate taxpayers can reclaim the difference between the higher rate and the basic rate of tax on their annual return, whilst company donations may be offset against corporation tax, thus making charitable giving hugely tax-efficient.

Pupil Premium – I know that some families simply do not have the resources to make a contribution (and many choose to support the school in other ways such as helping with parents’ events). Under the Pupil Premium scheme we can claim an extra £935 for every boy who is entitled to a free school meal, whether they take the meals or not. We’re asking parents to check their eligibility via

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/learning/schools/schoolservices/catering/freemeals.htm> or alternatively pick up an application form at reception.

Gifts in Kind

There are ways in which our alumni, parents and friends of the School can help Wimbledon College through gifts of expertise or time.

Careers Support, Practical Support, Talks and Workshops

The Alumni and Careers team are keen to promote the experiences of OWs who can pass on practical knowledge and experience to our current pupils. If you can help the School by providing careers advice or work placements please contact the Jessica Town, Futures Lead: headofsixthform@wimbledoncollege.org.uk

The Friends of Wimbledon College (FoWC)

Parents and guardians at Wimbledon College have many valuable skills and talents to offer the FOWC. It is important that we continue to engage newer parents to the School to ensure continuity of the FOWC over time. We would be delighted to welcome new volunteers to the committee. If you would like any further information about what is involved in these positions, please email FriendsofWimbledonCollege@gmail.com .

Wimbledon College October 2023