



# Wimbledon College

## Investing in your child's future

### Annual Report 2024 – 25 & Appeal 2025 - 26

#### **Headteacher's Introduction**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this year's Annual Report on the School Fund. This report aims to explain how the Fund has supported our pupils over the past year, and how, with your continued generosity, it will provide vital opportunities in the year ahead.

The School Fund is an essential part of our community. It exists because parents, alumni and friends recognise the value of contributing directly to the life of the school. These contributions, whether large or small, enrich our pupils' experiences in ways that core government funding simply cannot provide. From specialist equipment and resources to wider learning opportunities and improvements to our facilities, the School Fund allows us to maintain and enhance the quality of education for every child in our care.

#### **Why your support matters**

Although government funding has improved since the most difficult years, rising costs across every area of school life continue to place significant pressures on our budget. Like many schools, we are working hard to sustain our high standards while also making thoughtful investments in our environment and facilities. These improvements are only possible with your support: your donations allow us to go beyond the 'basic minimum' and provide a richer, more rewarding education for our young people.

We are also proud to have retained and appointed outstanding teachers and support staff, despite a national recruitment crisis. Our staff are our greatest asset, and ensuring we can continue to attract and retain exceptional colleagues is vital for the future of our pupils.

Parents know that our school offers an education that extends well beyond the classroom. This tradition of excellence has only been possible because generations of families have been willing to invest in the school, creating opportunities from which their children—and now yours—benefit.

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### How you can help

Each year we invite families to contribute to the School Fund through their youngest child. As a guide, we suggest a donation of £40 per month per family. Some are able to give more, and others less. Whatever the amount, please know that every contribution is valued and makes a difference.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, the School Fund raised **£118,300**, with an additional **£20,100** reclaimed through Gift Aid—an outstanding total of **£138,400**. These funds have directly supported our pupils and improved the school experience for all.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to every parent, former pupil, and friend of the school who has contributed to the Fund. Your generosity sustains our mission, strengthens our community, and ensures that every child has the best possible opportunities now and in the future.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Adrian Laing

Headteacher

## Report on the Use of the School Fund 2024-25

Thanks to donations from parents/carers, staff, former staff, alumni, OWA and the wider community, we recently undertook:

- Tarmac & Resurfacing Main School and Coombe Lane from (Donations from parents, alumni and trustees of the College)
- School Mini Bus (Fundraising from friends of Wimbledon College, Donations from parents)
- Flooring replacement (Donations from parents, alumni of the College)
- Window Replacement (Donations from parents, alumni of the College)
- Stonework conservation (Donations from parents, alumni of the College)

Over the past year, the School Fund has enabled us to offer our pupils a wide range of opportunities and experiences that extend well beyond the classroom. Below are some highlights of how your donations have supported our students in the arts, sport, enrichment activities, and wellbeing.

### Performing Arts

- **School Productions:** The Christmas production of *Clue: The Musical* was a resounding success, following on from the popularity of *The Addams Family* last year. The School Fund helped with costumes, staging, and technical equipment, ensuring pupils could perform to a professional standard and the audience enjoyed a memorable experience. Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for next year's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.
- **Drama Partnerships:** The Drama Department continues to thrive thanks to your support. Pupils took part in the **King's College Community Production of Beowulf**, and many joined in the **Merton Arts Share project, Stories of Our Streets**, developing creativity and confidence. Your donations contribute to travel, resources, and workshops that make these collaborative projects possible.

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### Music

- **College Orchestra:** With the support of the Fund, our pupils joined forces with Ursuline High School to create a joint orchestra, performing in concerts at both schools. These joint ventures are helping to build a rich culture of musical collaboration.
- **Music Festival 2025:** The annual Festival continues to expand, offering events ranging from piano recitals and choir performances to a new *Battle of the Bands*. Funding ensures that all students can take part and that performances are accessible to parents and the wider community.
- **Concerts and Lessons:** School Fund contributions supported instrumental tuition and the end-of-term Music Concert, which featured the St Cecilia Sinfonia and choir performing Fauré's *Requiem*. These opportunities raise the standard of music across the school and give students experiences they will never forget.

### Sport

- **Rugby:** Over 400 pupils took part in 83 fixtures this year, with the inaugural U18 State School Festival at John Fisher School marking a new high point. School Fund support has helped cover kit, travel, and equipment.
- **Athletics:** Our teams achieved significant success, including winning the **Boys Indoor Simmonds Cup** and strong performances at the Merton Schools Championships and Surrey Cross-Country.
- **Boxing:** The school's Amateur Boxing Club made a proud return to competition, with pupils showing real determination and sportsmanship in their first competitive bouts.
- **Rugby Sevens:** The annual John Pieroni Sevens Tournament remains a highlight, attracting some of the best teams in the country and giving our pupils a chance to compete at a high level.

### Enrichment and Academic Opportunities

- **Prize Giving:** This year's Prize Giving ceremony once again celebrated pupil achievement across a wide range of academic disciplines. In addition to subject prizes, the Headteacher's Awards were presented to pupils who made exceptional progress in their studies and contributed significantly to the wider life of the school. The Fund supports this important event, ensuring that achievement is recognised and celebrated.
- **Oracy and Debate:** Pupils excelled at debating competitions, earning a silver medal at the Tiffin Girls' Debate and achieving recognition at the Bingham Debate.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** The *Culturally Speaking* programme enabled 25 Rudiments pupils to visit the Imperial War Museum's *Artists and War* exhibition and take part in a public-speaking workshop—funded by the School Fund.
- **Model United Nations:** The twice-yearly Model UN continues to inspire our pupils to think globally and engage in diplomacy. Several students received awards for their contributions and position papers.

### Pupil Welfare and Inclusion

- **Breakfast Enrichment:** In response to the cost-of-living crisis, we introduced a free porridge initiative in 2022. This continues to provide a nutritious start to the day for pupils arriving early, supporting concentration and performance in lessons. Fresh fruit toppings have made it an even more popular and healthy option.
- **Uniform and Trips Support:** The Fund also provides modest allowances for pupils from families in financial difficulty, from wearing the correct uniform, to joining trips, or taking part in school activities.

### In Summary

Your generosity to the School Fund has directly supported the development of our pupils in sport, music, drama, enrichment, and wellbeing. These experiences not only enhance learning but also foster resilience, teamwork, creativity, confidence, and inclusion. We are deeply grateful to every family who has contributed, enabling us to maintain the breadth of opportunities that makes our school distinctive.

## Annual Appeal for Projects 2025-26

As you know, government funding for schools continues to be extremely tight. While we do receive essential support for core teaching and basic provision, many of the opportunities and facilities that make Wimbledon College exceptional depend directly on the generosity of parents, alumni, and friends of the school.

This year, your support will be vital in helping us to move forward despite financial restrictions. Our focus remains on sustaining the **chaplaincy programme, sport, performing arts, and the full range of extra-curricular activities** that enrich your child's education.

### Planned Facilities Developments 2025–26

- **Fire Safety upgrade – Main Site** (DfE Condition Improvement Fund grant secured)
- **Science Labs Refurbishment** (Trustee's Grant secured)
- **Computer Network cabling – fibre optics upgrade OM1-1Gb to OM4-10Gb 16 Core - Replacing old 10/100 48 port Cisco Switches with 10/100/1000 48 port Cisco Meraki Switches** (*Parent and alumni donations*)
- **Wall Art – Refectory/Chaplaincy & MFL corridors** (*Parent and alumni donations*)
- **Fire & Security upgrades – Pavilion, Coombe Lane** (*Parent and alumni donations*)
- **Curtains & Blinds – Replacement in MFL/Humanities and Brackenbury** (*Parent and alumni donations*)
- **Flooring – Refurbishment of the Main Hall** (*Parent and alumni donations*)
- **Replacement windows – IT Block** (*Parent and alumni donations*)

The annual appeal allows every family to participate in projects your child will see and benefit from within a year. With your help, these developments will directly add value to the quality of their education.

### Why We Need Your Support

Wimbledon College is a **Voluntary Aided (VA) Catholic school**, which means we must contribute **10% of all capital expenditure costs**. This contribution comes directly from the School Fund. In choosing a VA Catholic school, families are also choosing to play a part in sustaining the independence and high standards of Catholic education.

In addition to your generosity, the school continues to benefit from lettings income (£175k this year), FoWC support (£3k for literacy initiatives), and trustee contributions (£100k towards building maintenance and improvements). But your regular donations remain the essential cornerstone of our development plans.

## Making a gift that is right for you

We encourage every family to give at a level that suits their circumstances. As a guide, we suggest a monthly donation of **£40 per family** (equivalent to £2.50 per school day). Many families are able to give more, some less. Every contribution is valued.

**Illustration of Giving Levels (with Gift Aid):**

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
<b>£40</b>	£480	£120	£600
£30	£360	£90	£450

*Gift Aid allows us to reclaim 25% at no extra cost to you, provided you are a UK taxpayer.*

**Ways to Give**

- **Regular Gifts** – Standing Order (monthly, quarterly, or annually)
- **Single Gifts** – Bank transfer or cheque
- **Matched Gifts** – Many employers match staff donations—check with your HR department
- **Payroll Giving** – Tax-efficient donations via your employer’s payroll
- **Gifts in Wills** – Leaving a legacy to the school provides lasting impact and tax benefits
- **Gifts in Kind** – Donations of expertise, careers advice, or work placements are invaluable

**Pupil Premium**

We are also keen that families check their eligibility for **Free School Meals/Pupil Premium**, as this provides the school with an additional **£1,480 per child** at no cost to parents. Details are available at [Merton Council’s Website](#) or from school reception.

**Join Us in Investing in the Future - Stay Connected**

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 Bernadett Parish, [careers@wimbledoncollege.org.uk](mailto:careers@wimbledoncollege.org.uk). To ensure you receive invitations to future events and alumni notices, please send your up-to-date contact details to Paola Cray, Admissions & Marketing officer: [registrar@wimbledoncollege.org.uk](mailto:registrar@wimbledoncollege.org.uk) for inclusion in the alumni database.

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](mailto:FriendsofWimbledonCollege@gmail.com).

Your gifts, combined with those of other parents and alumni, ensure that Wimbledon College continues to provide an **exceptional education** and outstanding facilities. Together, we can help every pupil to reach their full potential—in the classroom, in sport, in the arts, and beyond.

Thank you for your continued generosity, commitment, and partnership in making our school thrive.

*Development and Alumni Relations, Wimbledon College Autumn 2025*