

Giving Report 2014/15



Welcome

Withington Girls' School is an institution that exists only as a result of the far-sighted vision and philanthropy of our Founders 125 years ago.

We have marked this historic 125th Anniversary year with special events including a Gala Concert at the RNCM, a Celebration Ball, a Grand Reunion for our Old Girls and a commemorative book. It was also an exceptional year in terms of developing the school site, with an important building programme taking place to deliver significant improvements to the learning experience of the girls. These splendid new facilities, a brand new Junior School building, a communal hub space and new Chemistry and DT departments are now open. This ambitious project would simply have been unachievable without the support of the WGS Trust and generous benefactors.

Donors have also been crucial in enabling us to provide means-tested bursary places to one in six pupils, enabling bright girls from financially disadvantaged families to benefit from the life-transforming education that Withington offers.

I hope that you enjoy reading this Giving Report, which illustrates the projects funded by supporters of the School and also outlines future ambitions to increase bursary places and to improve the facilities to ensure that the girls are able to benefit from the best possible education. On behalf of the Governors, staff and pupils, I'd like to offer you our warmest thanks for your kind support.

Mrs Elisabeth Lee Chairman of Governors



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State-of-the-art university standard Chemistry laboratories are now available for pupils thanks to private donors who donated over £250,000 to the project.

£447,000

Was received in donations and legacies by the WGS Trust and Withington Girls' School

4

Priority projects were funded, thanks to donors to the Enhancing Opportunities Annual Fund: a mobile fume cupboard, a creative writing course, a foreign language showcase event and a 3D printer.

2014/15

The year in numbers

306

Generous people donated to the School during the year

83

Girls benefited from means-tested bursaries thanks to donors and the WGS Trust

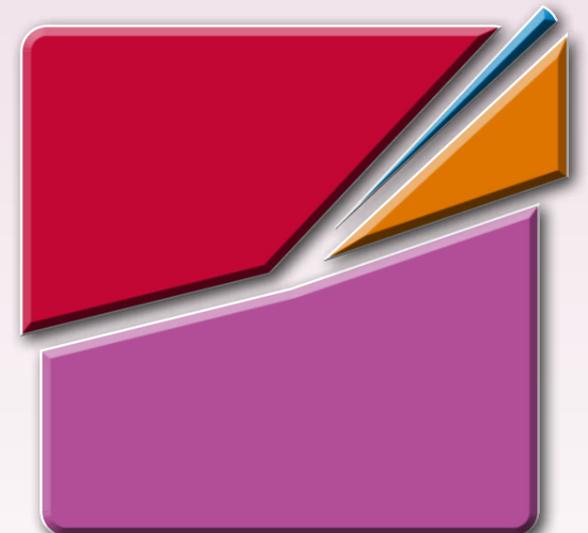
233

Donors gave a regular gift and raised a total of over £43,000 (including Gift Aid) for the Annual Fund and Bursaries

Number of Donors



Current & Former Parents	97
Charitable Trusts	5
Former Pupils	183
Current & Former Staff, Governors & Trustees	17
Other	4



Annual Fund	£30,481
New Chemistry laboratories	£230,051
Bursary Fund	£182,561
Other	£3,734

Donations 2014-15

At the leading edge of girls' education in the UK

The first phase of our site development plan has been completed. We now have splendid new buildings delivering improvements to the learning experience of the girls.

The Hub

This airy and light central hub created around the Arts Centre provides new areas for the girls to learn, talk and relax. At the geographic heart of the School, this space also enables girls to move around the site more easily. It is being used as a space for displaying art, holding functions and break-out groups, and as a place for the girls to 'chill-out' at break time.

The New Junior School

Our inspirational, self-contained, purpose-built Junior School provides spacious, light and airy classrooms overlooking the School playing fields. Having more classrooms has allowed a reduction in class sizes and the pupils have direct access to their own outdoor play area.

New Chemistry Laboratories

Thanks to private benefactors we were able to build a new state-of-the-art Chemistry laboratory and to completely modernise the existing two laboratories. We were also able to create a Sixth Form Science Resource Room, providing a quiet study area for Sixth Form girls completing course work and projects.

“It has been wonderful to be able to increase substantially the number of practical opportunities, including many that require the use of fume cupboards. This will undoubtedly enhance the girls' learning experience of a very challenging subject”.

Dr Cristina Vilela Head of Chemistry



Bursaries - truly a life-changing opportunity

Thank you to the many Alumnae, current and past parents and the wider school community who have donated to our Bursary Fund during the past year.

In the past the Direct Grant and Assisted Places schemes enabled bright girls from all backgrounds to benefit from a Withington education, but in recent years bursaries have been the only source of funding for girls who would otherwise not be able to accept a place because of financial reasons. One in six pupils is currently receiving financial support and we are indebted to supporters of the Bursary programme who have made this possible.

We know that a Withington bursary can change the path of a girl's life forever.

“Receiving a Bursary at WGS has given me opportunities I'd never thought possible. Without it I would never have been able to go to the school, and it's helped to give me a confidence in myself and to nurture talents to help me see where my strengths lie. The students might not know who has given them the chance to go to Withington, but they will thank you forever.”

Felicity 2007 leaver



Thank you to Annual Fund donors

The Annual Fund raises money for projects identified by pupils and staff to provide the best learning opportunities for the girls and to boost the Bursary Fund. The Annual Fund is important in enabling small projects to be funded sooner rather than later.

This year we were able to fund four projects:

- A 3D Printer to enable the girls to learn computer modelling and then to print real objects
- A Mobile Fume Cupboard for the new Chemistry laboratories to enable the teaching staff to demonstrate experiments to pupils in a safe and engaging way
- A residential creative writing course to help sixteen senior girls develop and sharpen their writing skills. This course will run in February 2016
- A foreign language showcase event to demonstrate to the girls and their parents how mastering language skills opens up opportunities in many exciting careers. This event is planned for March 2016



The Challenges Ahead

The Bursary Fund – our next goal

A total of 83 girls benefited from a means-tested bursary in 2014-15 but sadly we had to turn away bright girls, as we do every year, because of insufficient funds. Although ultimately we would like to be in a position where no bright girl is denied a place on financial grounds, our next goal is to increase the number of bursary places to one in five (20%) which would equate to an extra 3 or 4 girls in each year within the Senior School. To do this we need to grow the Bursary Fund significantly. Please help us to ensure that the gift of a Withington education is open to all.

Building projects – our future ambitions

The next priority in our phased development plan for the School site is to enhance our sports facilities to promote a 'sport for all' culture. We would like to create spacious new changing facilities, an extension to our fitness suite and other new improvements to promote the health and wellbeing of all the girls and the comfort of visiting spectators. In future years we would also like to construct a new Music School.

The Enhancing Opportunities Annual Fund – projects for 2015-16

This year we have chosen four modest projects to enhance the educational experience for the girls. The total cost is £22,223 and the projects are:

- A new kiln to assist the girls to realise their ideas and create ceramics providing richness and variety to their art work
- Two new pedal harps for the Music Department to give more girls the chance to practise on this increasingly popular instrument
- A 'Print and Cut' machine to help produce superb quality graphics for Design Technology cross-curricular and extra-curricular projects
- Display cabinets for key archive materials to help share this historic information with the whole School Community

Thank You to All Our Supporters

We are indebted to all those who have pledged support to the School and who have given during the past year including:

- Regular donors and fundraisers – whose continuing support is of great benefit to the school as we move forward
- Donors to the Annual Fund, Bursary Fund or our building project this year
- Old Girls, parents and other friends of the School who have shared their expertise and provided careers advice
- Donors to the School Archive, or those who have shared memories of their school days
- Those who have remembered Withington in their will, as income from legacies helps to ensure more girls in the future can benefit from the life-changing opportunity of a Withington education

Major Gifts were received during the year from the following charitable trusts and foundations:

- Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Savannah Wisdom
- The Stoller Charitable Trust
- The Zochonis Charitable Trust

For Further information about supporting Withington please get in touch with the Development Office. Our contact details are below.

New Junior School bursaries are now available thanks to an extraordinary bequest

Margaret Connell taught Mathematics at Withington from 1955 to 1966. She oversaw many bright girls succeed in their university entrance to read mathematics at a time when few girls went on to study at university. Charity played a significant part in Margaret's life and she generously supported a number of charities. However, education and the opportunities provided as a result was Margaret's passion, and her very generous legacy (following her death in October 2013) of nearly one million pounds to the Withington Girls' School Bursary Fund will stand as a legacy to her memory. These funds have been invested in the WGS Trust and will fund Margaret Connell Junior School bursaries for Years 5 and 6. This remarkable act of generosity will have an impact on the life chances of many future generations of bright girls.



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