

Giving Report 2015/16



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Withington Girls' School's Giving Report, providing feedback and a means of expressing thanks to our donors and supporters for the impact your charitable support has on our School. Withington does not have a large endowment or any state funding, so charitable support is very important to us. Donations and legacies are crucial in helping to maintain and develop the Bursary programme, which provides 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. Charitable giving also helps us to fund projects which enhance the educational experience of our pupils but are outside the routine day-to-day running costs of the School.

This publication also outlines future ambitions for developing our Bursary Fund, to maintain Withington's inclusive ethos and also plans to enhance the School's current facilities so that we can continue to offer the best possible education to prepare our pupils for life in a changing and challenging world.

I hope that you enjoy reading this update and on behalf of the Governors, staff and pupils at Withington Girls' School, I'd like to offer you our warmest thanks for your kind support.

Mrs Elisabeth Lee Chairman of Governors

Front cover photo:

The two new harps purchased as a result of the 2015/16 Annual Fund being demonstrated by pupils Shamae and Jodie.



12

Junior School Bursaries were awarded for the first time this year (in Years 5 and 6) thanks to the wonderful legacy left by former member of staff Margaret Connell

£228,532

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

4

Priority projects were funded, thanks to donors to the Annual Fund:

- Two new lever harps
- A Print and Cut Machine
- A new kiln
- Archive digitisation and display project

2015/16

The year in numbers

379

Generous people donated to the School during the year

89

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

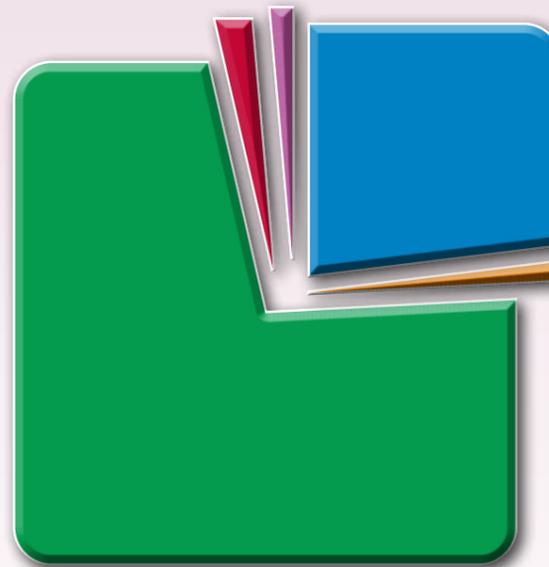
199

Donors gave a regular gift

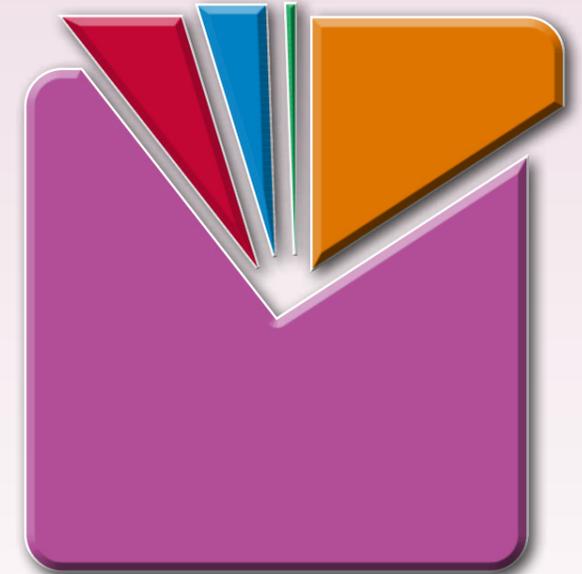
185

Donors gave a gift as a result of our Telephone Campaign

Number of Donors



Current & Former Parents	88
Charitable Trusts	4
Former Pupils	274
Current & Former Staff, Governors & Trustees	8
Other	5
Total	379



Annual Fund	£36,646.00
Bursary Fund	£167,811.00
Capital	£13,348.00
Legacy	£10,050.00
Other	£677.00
Total	£228,532.00

Campaign Breakdown [inc Gift Aid]

Bursaries – A Truly Life-Changing Opportunity

The 40th Anniversary of the WGS Trust

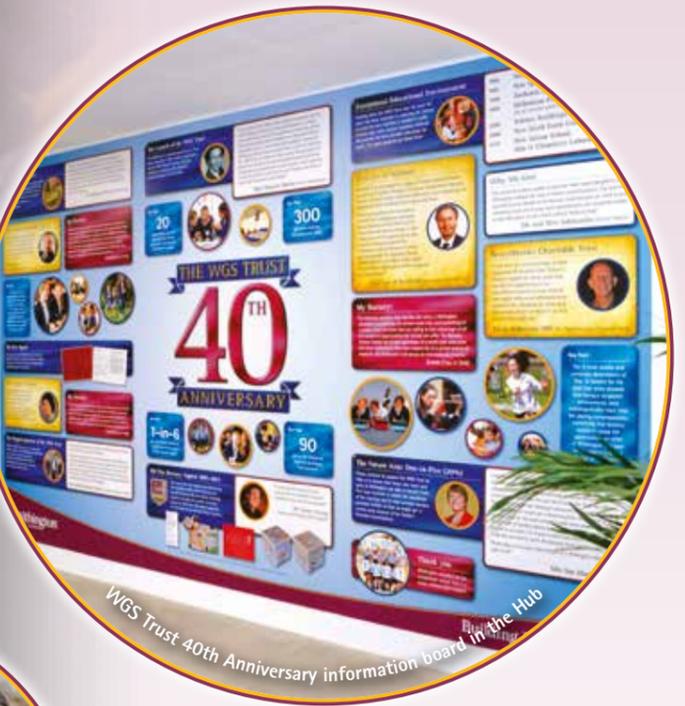
Thank you to the many Alumnae, charitable trusts, current and past parents, staff and the wider School community, who have supported our Bursary Fund during the past year. Twelve means-tested bursaries were awarded to new Year 7 pupils who would otherwise not have been able to take up a place at School. Most of the families in question live in socially-deprived areas of Greater Manchester such as Longsight, Hulme, Crumpsall, Oldham and Levenshulme.

Our bursary recipients work hard and continue to excel academically. In 2016, a fantastic 90% of the GCSE grades our nine Year 11 bursary pupils achieved were either A* or A. Similarly, the A-Level results and university destinations of our most recent Year 13 leavers showed that bursary recipients' results and aspirations were indistinguishable from their fee-paying peers, confirming that they grasp the opportunities on offer at Withington and thrive in our relatively small school, where every pupil is known and encouraged to reach their potential.

Charlotte Pang, 2015 leaver and Withington bursary recipient, recently said:



“It meant a lot to us, having the chance to go to such a prestigious School without having the financial background, which was a worry. As it turns out we didn't need to worry so much. Being able to attend Withington has opened up a lot of opportunities and I have made lifetime friends. The WGS education is not something that should be limited to those who can afford it. Additionally, there may be times for a family where finances become an issue and thus the bursaries allow for girls to remain in WGS. It is an essential part of the WGS culture and the connections I made will stick with me for a long time.”



In the past, the Direct Grant and Assisted Places Schemes enabled bright girls from all backgrounds to attend Withington. However, in recent years, bursaries have become the only source of funding for girls who would otherwise be unable to accept a place for financial reasons.

In 2016 we marked the 40th Anniversary of the WGS Trust, a registered charity set up in 1976 by former Headmistress Miss Marjorie Hulme, to support bursaries and the School. Thanks to many generous donors and careful fund management, the Trust has thrived and now enables us to provide bursaries to one-in-six pupils in the Senior School and Years 5 and 6 in the Junior School. The bursary programme has enabled more than 300 bright girls to benefit from a life-transforming education within our vibrant and socially-diverse community, where learning is cherished.

To celebrate this significant milestone, a large and colourful information board was commissioned, highlighting the history and achievements of the WGS Trust during the past 40 years. This board is on display in the Hub for pupils, staff and visitors to enjoy.

The Annual Fund

Thank You for Supporting our Telephone Campaign

In August 2016 WGS held its third Telephone Campaign to raise funds for the Annual Fund and bursaries. During the two weeks of the campaign, fourteen recent leavers conducted more than 500 telephone conversations with parents and Alumnae. Thanks to many generous supporters, approximately £85,000 was pledged over a four-year period, through a mixture of single gifts, regular donations, renewed regular donations and legacy pledges.

Thank You to our Annual Fund Donors

As a result of the Telephone Campaign and regular donations received during the year, we have been able to fund four Annual Fund projects:

- Two new lever harps for the Music Department for girls to practise on
- A new kiln and clay extruder for the Art Department to enable the girls to realise their creative ideas
- A Print and Cut Machine for Design Technology, to aid girls in creating custom items
- Professional digitisation of old School Newsletters and the purchase of display cases for heritage material



The Challenges Ahead

Developing Inspirational Sports Facilities – our Sports Centre Campaign

A campaign was recently launched to extend and enhance our current Sports Hall, to transform it into a Sports Centre that will help to motivate our pupils and encourage them to enjoy exercise during their time at School and beyond.

Physical activity is vital to the holistic development of young people, fostering their physical, social and emotional health. Reinforcing memory and enhancing learning, it can help to reduce stress and anxiety, whilst sport and play have strong influences on teamwork, inclusion and character-building.

The Sports Hall will be upgraded and a light and airy extension will include new changing rooms for outdoor sports, a large fitness suite and a 'Mind and Body Studio' that can be used for activities such as dance, yoga and martial arts. The School needs help towards the cost of the scheme and therefore a fundraising drive has been launched to raise £500,000 from the wider Withington community in order to convert our vision into reality and create a Sports Centre of which we can all be proud.

It is hoped that building work for this project will commence in the summer of 2017.

Bursary Programme Development

The number of bursary applications continues to rise every year and, unfortunately, we have to disappoint many bright girls who meet our tough academic entrance requirements but for whom there is insufficient funding. A total of 89 (one-in-six) girls in School were in receipt of a means-tested bursary in 2015-16.

Please continue to support us in increasing the number of bursary places we can offer, to give chances to more bright girls and ensure that the gift of a Withington education is open to all.



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 – your continuing support and loyalty 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
- Alumnae who have donated to the School Archive or those who have shared memories of their School days and enriched our heritage
- 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
- 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.

Meet one of our donors

"I'm happy to admit that I loved School, and learning in an environment with great facilities and enthusiastic, caring teachers certainly meant that developing my learning style and achieving my best academically was both enjoyable and straightforward. My time at Withington was also about making lifelong friends with likeminded girls, and having the freedom to develop my personality and my interests. I went to University to study Dentistry, and I now split my time between teaching at the University of Leeds and working in general dental practice. Attending Withington has helped shape my future, and I am grateful every day for the education and the experience I received there, and the bursary donors who made that possible. I am now making regular donations to the Bursary Fund, so that other girls who may not otherwise be able to, can attend this wonderful school and achieve their full potential."

Kate Waldon [Class of 2005] current donor and former bursary recipient



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Registered Charity No. 1158226 WGS Trust Registered Charity No: 505207



Add: WGSAlum

Join: Withington Girls' School Alumnae – group



Add: Development Office – Withington Girls' School

Join: Withington Girls' School Alumnae – group



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