

Giving Report 2016/17



Welcome

Welcome to our 2016/17 Giving Report, a publication that allows us to express our gratitude to our donors and report on the impact that charitable donations are having on our school community. 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 and to fund other important school projects. Our means-tested bursary programme funds 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 edition outlines future ambitions for developing our Bursary Fund to maintain Withington's inclusive ethos and provides a progress report on our plans to enhance the school's sports facilities, so that we can continue to offer the best possible educational opportunities for current and future generations of Withington pupils.

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

Mr Malcolm Pike
Chair of Governors



33
Of the top 100 applicants in the entrance examination for Year 7 requested a bursary

£500,000
The fundraising target for our Sports Campaign

1
Legacy was received from a former pupil (Miss Susan Dickinson)

2016/17 The Year in Numbers

406
Generous people donated to the school during the year

87
Girls benefited from means-tested bursaries thanks to donors and the WGS Trust

265
Kind donors gave a regular gift

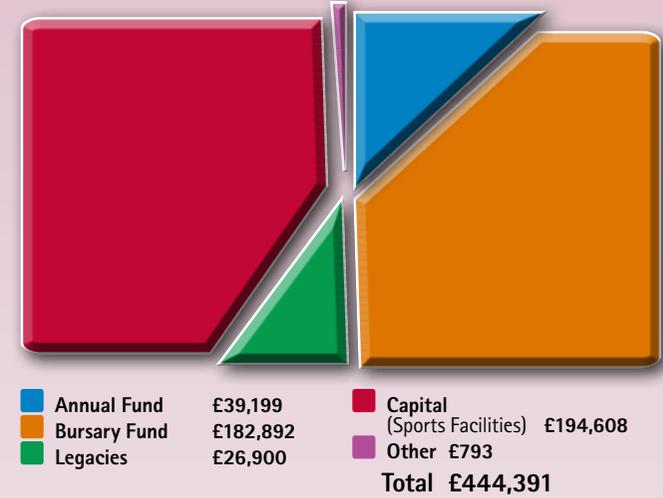
13
Pupils in Year 7 (1 in 5) were in receipt of a bursary

£444,391
Was received in donations and legacies by the WGS Trust and Withington Girls' School

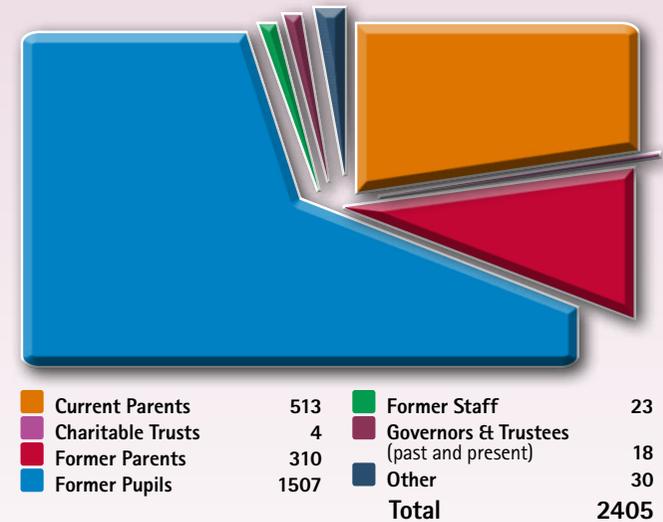
60
The number of A* GCSE grades awarded to our eight Year 11 girls in receipt of bursaries

Campaign Breakdown

(Funds Received by the School and the WGS Trust Including Gift Aid)



Number of Gifts Received



Transforming Young Lives

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our Bursary Fund during the year. Bursaries can truly transform the lives of bright young women and Withington's warm and inclusive ethos benefits all pupils in the school.

The number of bursary applications has grown tremendously in recent years and continues to outstrip the funding available. This year, 13 means-tested bursaries were awarded to Year 7 pupils who would otherwise not have been able to take their place at the school due to financial constraints. This constituted one-in-five of the year group.

Bursary pupils are indistinguishable from their peers and make the most of the fantastic opportunities at Withington, both within the classroom and in their extra-curricular activities. Their public examination results are outstanding. The eight bursary pupils in the Year 11 cohort were awarded 60 A* grades between them, and all the girls gained A* or A grades in all their subjects.

Similarly, the bursary recipients amongst the Year 13 leavers did very well in their A Levels and are now studying subjects such as medicine, zoology, classics, economics and philosophy at leading UK universities.

Careful means-testing ensures that the available funding is used fairly and is targeted where it is needed most.



Bursary Case Study

"Both my sister and I will always be grateful for the WGS bursary scheme that enabled us to attend Withington Girls' School.

Although since leaving we have embarked on different career paths, the opportunities we were presented with at school prepared us equally with the skills and confidence we needed to thrive at university and beyond. I am currently completing my BA in Natural Sciences at Cambridge University and will be entering the Masters programme in Material Sciences in October. My sister Neda attended medical school at University College London and is now specialising in Community Sexual and Reproductive Health in Oxford.

We would like to sincerely thank the many alumnae, current and past parents as well as members of the WGS community who have generously donated to the bursary scheme. We hope that many students, like us, will continue to benefit from its success."

Neda & Haleh Taghinejadi
(Class of 2009 and 2015)



Transforming our Sports Facilities

During the year we promoted a fundraising campaign to extend and enhance our Sports Hall, to transform it into an inspiring Sports Centre and encourage more girls to participate in sport and exercise, whilst also assisting those with sporting talent to achieve their potential.

The fundraising target is £500,000 and thanks to generous donors, half of this sum had been raised or pledged by the end of the summer term in 2017. Builders were appointed, and work started on site in July 2017. The new facilities include two extra changing rooms for outdoor sports, a new fitness suite, a 'mind and body' studio, enhancements to the current sports hall and other improvements. There will be a welcoming entrance, a bright foyer area, facilities for visitors and the ability for the centre to be used outside school hours by local community groups.

There is growing excitement and anticipation amongst the pupils as the building work progresses and the school is planning the grand opening of the Sports Centre later in the year.



The Annual Fund

Thank you to our Annual Fund donors who so generously support small projects that enhance the learning of our pupils and help to develop our bursary programme.

New Kiln Delivery and Installation

During the summer holidays the new kiln was installed in the Art Department.

Head of Art Ruth Fildes said:

"I would like to extend a huge 'Thank You' to the donors of the Annual Fund for our fabulous new kiln which replaced a rapidly deteriorating old piece of machinery. The new kiln will allow us to continue to build upon and extend the ceramic work that we do in school. It is an amazing medium which produces artwork that simply cannot be achieved any other way. Our Year 9 classes have been lucky to be the first to have their work fired in the new kiln. In the spring term this year they have been creatively designing and skilfully constructing fashion-inspired tableware. We hope you think their work is beautiful! There will be much more to come!"

Print and Cut Machine

The print and cut machine, another piece of equipment funded by the Annual Fund, has become an invaluable piece of equipment within the Design Technology department for printing stickers, posters, banners and many other items for the girls' project work. For example, the machine was recently used to print coffee cup stickers for a school café fundraising event. The Year 9 girls used their creative skills to each design their own coffee-shop style cup logos during their Design Technology lessons, and then helped to sell the drinks and cakes, raising £1,000 towards the Sports Campaign.

The New Annual Fund

This year we are raising funds for several small projects, which will enhance the learning of pupils. Keep an eye on our website for more information: www.wgs.org/development/annual-fund-2018/. One of the projects is a sound system and speakers for the new Mind and Body Studio within the enhanced Sports Centre. This will be used to play music for group exercise classes and extra-curricular activities such as dance, yoga and aerobics, activities which are popular with all the girls, not just those who are keen on traditional sports.



The Challenges Ahead

Completing our New Sports Facility

Our enhanced new sports facilities, the WGS Sport and Fitness Centre, is due to open in May 2018. Fundraising is continuing in order to raise the shortfall needed to complete and equip the centre to the highest standard, to enable current and future generations of pupils to benefit from these excellent improvements which are aimed at increasing participation and raising the profile of sport and exercise.

Bursary Programme

Whilst we are very proud of what has been achieved with our bursary programme and the current level of bursary provision, one-in-six pupils within the senior school, we recognise that there is still more to do if we want to significantly increase the number of bursary places within the school and be able to offer places to the very brightest applicants, regardless of parental income.

Our first Bursary Appeal successfully raised £2M and efforts have continued to encourage the school community to keep supporting bursaries since the end of the appeal. The time has now come to step up this activity and to make bursaries the main focus of our fundraising again. Plans are now being drawn up to re-launch our Bursary Appeal, to enable us to offer more full bursary places to girls from severely financially disadvantaged families.

We hope that we will be able to count on the support of our warm Withington community as we take another step towards needs-blind admission.



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
- 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
- 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

Sandra generously gives a monthly donation to the Bursary Fund, she says:



“I am committed to supporting the Bursary Fund. I was a direct grant pupil and went to Withington on a free place, funded by Manchester Council. We do not want any financial barriers to entry to Withington. Education is for everyone and widening access is very close to my heart. My whole life was changed by going to Withington. Let’s give this opportunity to any girl, whatever her family’s circumstances, who can benefit.”

Sandra Oelbaum [formerly Cohen, Class of 1976] Bursary Fund Donor



Withington
GIRLS' SCHOOL



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

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