

Giving 2017 2018 Report



Welcome

It is our pleasure to introduce the Withington Girls' School Giving Report for 2017-18 and to express our warm and sincere gratitude for your support.

Withington has always enjoyed a special family atmosphere and we are reminded again of that wonderful sense of community within these pages. By coming together as donors and supporters of the school, you have made a profound impact and helped to provide so many outstanding opportunities for current and future Withington girls.

You can read about the opening of the new Sport and Fitness Centre further on. This would not have been possible without your help and will provide enhanced opportunities for sport and exercise for many years to come. If you have not yet

had chance to visit the new facilities, please contact the Development Office to arrange a tour.

Your donations are also crucial in supporting our bursary programme. Welcoming academically able girls from financial disadvantaged families has always been part of the fabric of Withington and part of what makes our diverse community so special. We are proud to be able to support one-in-six of our pupils with a bursary, but we have ambitions to do more. With your continued support we hope to be able to provide ever more opportunities to transform the lives of talented young girls.

To all who have given, or who have remembered Withington in their will, a resounding thank you on behalf of all here at WGS.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Pike'.

Mr Malcolm Pike
Chair of Governors



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. J. Haslam'.

Mrs Sarah Haslam
Headmistress





Introduction to the Director of Development



I joined Withington as Director of Development in January 2019 and in the few short months I have been here I have been privileged to see the impact that your generosity has had on the school.

It is gratifying to see the number of pupils and staff benefiting from the new Sport and Fitness Centre. Access to such facilities is ever more important for health and wellbeing, and in encouraging more girls to take up or continue with sport or exercise. I have personally enjoyed joining several Sixth Form fitness classes and am pleased to have survived!

With the sports facilities complete, we are refocusing our ambitions on supporting even more deserving girls who would benefit from a Withington education, irrespective of their family's financial position. I have been fortunate to meet some of our current bursary recipients and to see first-hand the difference such support makes to the girl and her family. It's not a cliché to say that your support can be truly life-changing.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet as many of you as possible over the coming months and years so that I may thank you personally for your generosity.

I would also like to thank my predecessor, Toni Leden who has so ably led Withington's Development and Alumnae programmes for the past five years. I wish Toni a happy and healthy retirement.

Lesley Dowdall

Lesley Dowdall
Director of Development

The Annual Fund

The Annual Fund was launched in 2012 to support special projects which further enhance learning and enrich extra-curricular opportunities. Some of the projects funded over the years, have included a grand harp, a kiln, 3D-printer, laser cutter and print and cut machine, all of which have produced spectacular results from our girls. This year, the Annual Fund contributed to a Greek Theatre Workshop and a sound system for the Mind & Body Studio.

Greek Theatre Workshop

Year 9 students, plus those studying Greek and Drama at GCSE and A-Level, benefited from lively Drama and Classics Workshops led by the theatre group 'The Actors of Dionysus' (AOD), who specialise in Ancient Greek theatre. AOD taught Year 9 about Ancient Greek theatre through a series of workshops based around the 415BC play by Euripides, *The Trojan Women*. They took a deeper look at the eternal relevance of some of the themes tackled in the ancient plays, such as war and its innocent victims. GCSE Greek students attended a workshop, where they gained some new perspectives on topics relevant to their studies. Sixth Form Classics and Drama students attended a two-hour workshop, having a fresh look at Sophocles' 2,500-year-old play, *Antigone*, exploring themes around the human condition that remain relevant today.



The Mind & Body Studio

Physical activity is vital to the holistic development of young people, fostering their physical, social and mental wellbeing, enhancing learning and building character. Dancing, zumba, aerobics, martial arts and yoga offer non-competitive exercise for pupils.

The Annual Fund contributed to a special screen and sound equipment for the Mind & Body Studio, enabling girls to use this space to its fullest potential.



Thank you to all our donors who support the Annual Fund. Any additional money raised is directed to the Bursary Fund.





Mrs Jo Howling
Head of Classics

“While we try to give our girls every opportunity of extra-curricular activities in Classics, we struggle to find any near Withington. Schools in London and the South East have a much greater access to classical talks and plays and we would like to offer the same breadth of opportunities. I’d like to say a huge, ‘Thank You’ to our donors who made this possible.”



Ella Rosenblatt
Upper Sixth

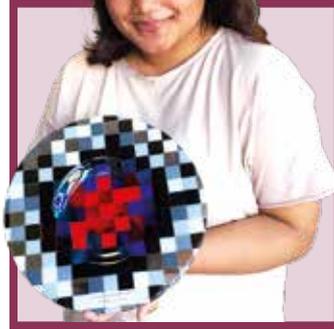
“I usually go to the Studio with my friends and we do group workouts. A lot of pupils who wouldn’t normally go to the gym are in the Studio. This is an important year, and we enjoy looking after ourselves physically and mentally.”

Donors' Choice

Donors choose how their legacy will impact Withington's future

Ruth Bayley Illustration Competition

Former pupil Ruth Coney [née Bayley] was a talented artist and respected illustrator of children's books. She left a gift in her will to the Bursary Fund in 2015 and in recognition of this support, the school started the annual Ruth Bayley Illustration Competition open to senior pupils. This year, Ruth's estate donated further funds to continue the competition. The theme of the most recent competition was 'Manchester Means the World to Me' and entries were judged by artist Helen Musselwhite, who visited the School and delivered a masterclass. Head of Art, Mrs Fildes is planning further workshops and trips, to encourage the development of the girls' skills in different media and materials.



"I thoroughly enjoy working on the Ruth Bayley Illustration Competition during the year and it is wonderful to recognise the fantastic artistic talents that our girls have."

Mrs Ruth Fildes, Head of Art

Sincere thanks to Ruth and her executors for their support of the school and its pupils.

The Bursary Fund

The generosity of our former old girls, who have sadly passed on, consistently surprises us. This year, we would like to give thanks to Dr Marion Porreca née Apley [Class of 1961] who sadly passed away in 2015. She left a legacy to the WGS Trust, which was recently directed to the Bursary Fund in agreement with her family. Marion, shortly before she passed, spoke to current pupils and said:

"I loved my seven years at School and I've always appreciated the financial support from the Direct Grant system that both my sister, Valerie and I received."

Marion joined Withington Girls' School in 1954 when her family moved from London. Marion thrived on sciences and was keen on all sports. A sincere thank you to Marion for her far-sighted generosity.



We are always honoured when someone chooses to remember Withington with a gift in their will. These legacy gifts resonate for generations and ensure that the donors are part of the School's future. If you would like further information or a confidential conversation about leaving a gift in your will, please contact Lesley Dowdall, Director of Development on 0161 249 3491 or ldowdall@wgs.org





Rosalind Morrill
[Class of 1976]

"During my time as a pupil, Withington was a Direct Grant school so there were a large number of girls who either had a 'free place' or a bursary. When my father's ill health meant that our family's financial circumstances deteriorated significantly, we were fortunate to receive bursary support. As a result my two sisters and I were all able to benefit from the wonderful start our Withington education gave us. That start ensured we all went on to have successful careers and to achieve financial independence at an early stage without having to rely on our parents. These days, with substantial fees to pay each year, it's even more important that Withington can provide bursaries to offer the same opportunity of a first-class education to as many bright, but financially disadvantaged, girls as possible.

For this reason, I have decided to include the Withington Bursary Fund in my Will, to give back as much as I can to help the girls of the future – what goes around, comes around, as they say."

Our New Sport and Fitness Centre

In July 2018, we celebrated the official opening of the new Sport and Fitness Centre. We are exceptionally grateful to the generosity of all those who supported this project. You have helped to create an inspirational environment in which our pupils can pursue their fitness interests – whether that's at a competitive level, or just for fun.

The new centre includes a welcoming reception area, an updated fitness suite, our multi-purpose 'Mind & Body Studio', brand new changing and locker facilities, and easier access onto the Emily Simon Playing Fields.

The official opening was marked by a special visit from Paralympian athlete Dame Sarah Storey DBE, the most successful female British Paralympian of all time, holding 75 world records.

This development has marked the beginning of an inspiring new chapter for Withington Girls' School as it has opened up access to sport and fitness options our pupils may not previously have had the opportunity to try, particularly girls who are not drawn to traditional team games. Several pupils have reported that they are now members of a gym or are taking up fitness classes.

Living in an era where mental health issues are at the forefront of daily life, keeping fit is an ideal way of relieving stress and looking after both mental and physical wellbeing. The introduction of these facilities will encourage an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle through the girls' school years and beyond.



“Whether you plan to be an elite athlete as I did, or whether you are looking for another role in life, our brains work better if we are physically fit and active – if we are doing it for recreation then it helps our mental health and wellbeing and if we are doing it for elite sport, then it helps us to reach that elite level better and faster.”

Dame Sarah Storey DBE

Our new Sports and Fitness Centre is a space our girls are keen to make use of, and proud to call their own. Thank you for making it happen.





"In my PE lessons I've done netball, hockey, lacrosse and gymnastics. I've also been going to the Year 7 Netball Club which is a great way to make lots of new friends. There's lots of choice so it seems like everyone gets to try out something they're interested in."

Poppy Winnard, Third Form

"In our GCSE PE practical lessons we have to do specific tests for our exam and because we have more space now and more facilities there's more flexibility in what we can do and what we can use. Using the machines in a classroom setting means we get taught how to do everything properly and safely too."

Silvia McCarthy, Lower Fifth

"As a keen sportswoman, I love the new facilities as it means I can keep up my fitness levels throughout the year. Studying four A levels means that I don't have a lot of free time, and visiting the fitness suite before school or at lunch means I can de-stress and refocus, something that I really value."

Florence Bradshaw, Head Girl

The Bursary Fund

Thank you to all our donors who play a vital role in supporting Withington's current and future pupils and ensuring that the gift of a Withington education is open to everyone who deserves it.

Withington has long been committed to encouraging diversity and bursaries are very much part of the School's heritage and fabric. One-in-six of our pupils receive some level of financial assistance and we have ambitions to do more.

We know from experience that bursary students bring unique qualities to the school and help maintain the diversity

which Withington has celebrated since its foundation in 1890. Your support has a tremendous impact on the lives of our bursary recipients and their families, but also enhances all our pupils' futures. This rich and varied mix of backgrounds is so important in preparing girls for their lives beyond WGS.

Thank you for helping to ensure that Withington retains its vision and ethos as a true centre of excellence open to all.

Selina's Story

Selina graduated from City, University of London with a BA Hons in Latin and French. She soon developed interests in the Arts and applied her analytical and project skills towards making television programmes, first as a runner for BBC3 and then as a Shooting Assistant Producer. Selina is currently a freelance documentary Producer-Director, now based in New York. She's worked on several programmes with challenging casting briefs and highly sensitive subject matters for the BBC, ITV and Channel 4. Both Selina and her sister Zara attended Withington Girls' School with financial assistance from the Bursary Fund.



Selina would like this opportunity to thank our donors:

“The WGS Bursary Fund provides students with much more than financial support. The opportunities it gave me were instrumental in shaping my academic life, my aspirations, and the friendships that I still cherish today. 10 years on I’m still incredibly grateful to those who helped me during my time at Withington.”

Selina Tso [Class of 2008]





Afshan Khawaja
[Class of 1989]

“The reason I donate is quite simple: getting an assisted place at Withington gave me the chance of a great education in an environment where being interested in learning and knowledge was normal and respected. I went on to achieve my dreams and I want to help other girls do the same. I think everybody regardless of background should achieve their full potential and bring that life experience to the work they choose to do. It benefits them, their family and wider society.”



Ayesha James
née Bramwell
[Class of 1997]

“I got a huge amount from my time at Withington and I feel privileged to be able to give something back. It is vital that every girl with the ability and drive to succeed is given the opportunity to do so, and offering them access to this wonderful school and community is a great place to start.”

2017-18 in Numbers...

254

Donors who generously supported the School

146

GCSE grades 7-9 earned by 16 Year 11 bursary pupils

£352,486.98

Total raised to support the new Sport & Fitness Centre throughout the campaign



75

World records held by Dame Sarah Storey, DBE

93

Girls across the school benefiting from a means tested bursary

32

Bursary support requests from the top 100 entrance exam applicants

£711,217

Used to support means-tested bursaries for bright and able girls



£386,373

Given in donations and legacies by our generous supporters

1 in 5

Pupils in Year 7 in receipt of a means-tested bursary

1,969

Gifts made by regular donations



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GIRLS' SCHOOL



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