

THANK YOU!

YOU ARE ENABLING GIRLS TO SHINE



GIVING REPORT 2020



withington
GIRLS' SCHOOL EST 1890

wgs.org

WELCOME

As I write this, our school building is currently closed to all but our most vulnerable children and those of keyworkers, as the country fights the terrible COVID-19 outbreak.

But Withington is far more than just our buildings. Our school is our people and as a school community we remain steadfast, working together and keeping in touch to ensure the highest possible standards of ongoing education and pastoral care of all our pupils.

We are very proud of our community spirit at Withington and together we are supporting our pupils and our families, and sustaining our inspiring school ethos and values.

This school spirit could not be better embodied than by you, our supporters. We are immensely grateful to you for supporting us through the best of times and the toughest of times. Your generosity provides support for girls who would otherwise miss out on everything that a Withington education offer. Your generosity supports outstanding learning provision and extra-curricular experiences for all our pupils. Your generosity inspires young minds.

Our Bursary Fund will become even more important in the forthcoming months. We know that some Withington families will be experiencing a significant change in their circumstances and will find themselves in need of support to enable their daughter to continue at Withington. With your ongoing support we will be doing all we can to ensure the continuity of our pupils' education.

You have helped to make Withington what it is today and your support will help us to grow further tomorrow.

On behalf of all here at Withington, a very sincere Thank You!



MRS SARAH HASLAM Headmistress



THE WGS BURSARY FUND

An Opportunity to Shine

The Bursary Fund is at the heart of the Withington vision and ethos to create a warm community centred on equality and opportunity irrespective of race, religion, social background and financial constraints. We know from experience that bursary students bring unique qualities to the school and help maintain the diversity which we have celebrated since 1890.

With your help we are proud to be able to support one in six girls across the Senior School with a bursary. This support transforms the educational experiences and future opportunities for these girls and for those receiving high-level bursaries (80%+ funding) we know that this can have a significant impact on the entire family, raising aspirations and opening new experiences.

This year we have created a 'Bursary Ambassadors' programme, inviting bursary recipients in the Upper and Lower Sixth to become Bursary Ambassadors. They are all rightly proud to be the recipients of a bursary and have been helping to promote and celebrate the Bursary Fund by sharing their Withington experience at events such as the recent Emily Simon Society Lunch.

We are conscious however, that for every girl we are able to help, there are others who will be disappointed, as we do not have enough bursary funding to meet the needs of everyone we would like to support.

45% INCREASE IN BURSARY APPLICANTS IN LAST 5 YEARS

BURSARY SUPPORT REQUESTS FROM THE TOP 100 ENTRANCE EXAM CANDIDATES: **31**

20 THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF GIRLS DISAPPOINTED EACH YEAR

We are therefore doubling our fundraising efforts for the Bursary Fund and celebrating the incredible impact bursary funding has on the individual recipients and their families and on the whole Withington community of pupils, alumnae, parents and staff.

We would like to thank all who donate to the Bursary Fund – you are making a very real difference to the lives of individual girls and to the life of the school.

Special thanks to the following for their long-standing support of our Bursary Fund:

- **Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust**
- **Peter Kershaw Trust**
- **Stoller Charitable Trust**
- **Zochonis Charitable Trust**



BURSARIES IN NUMBERS

94

GCSE GRADES 7-9
EARNED BY 11
YEAR 11 BURSARY PUPILS

BURSARIES ARE BENEFITING

108

GIRLS THIS YEAR WHO WOULD
OTHERWISE MISS OUT ON A
WITHINGTON EDUCATION

£832,460

INVESTED IN
PROVIDING
BURSARIES
IN 2019/20

31

BURSARY
SUPPORT
REQUESTS FROM
THE TOP 100
ENTRANCE EXAM
CANDIDATES

1:6

PUPILS
CURRENTLY
RECEIVING
BURSARY
SUPPORT

96

PERCENT
OF A-LEVEL
GRADES GAINED BY
BURSARY
PUPILS AT A*-B



MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

68 OF YOU ARE
DONATING **£10** PER
MONTH

which means

EACH YEAR YOU ARE SUPPORTING A WITHINGTON STUDENT WITH
80% BURSARY FUNDING FOR A WHOLE
SCHOOL YEAR

We are extremely grateful for every donation to the Bursary Fund. Sometimes it's easy to feel that you are not making a difference. Nothing could be further from the truth. All your donations, put together, have an impact on the lives of the girls you are supporting.

THANK YOU!

56 OF YOU ARE
DONATING **£20** PER
MONTH

which means

EACH YEAR YOU ARE SUPPORTING A WITHINGTON STUDENT WITH
100% BURSARY FUNDING for **4** SCHOOL
TERMS



CREATING A SPRINGBOARD

PAULA RIEDEL

(Class of 1986)

Partner at Kirkland & Ellis

I am delighted to be able to support Withington's bursary scheme.

Withington is an amazing school and I count myself very lucky to have been a pupil. I had many inspiring teachers and lovely school friends - I still count my best friend from school as one of my closest friends. I truly benefitted from an environment where, even decades ago, there was never any question that girls could achieve anything they set their minds to. It's fantastic to see that spirit continuing, and equally to see that the bursary scheme is as important as when I attended Withington, if not more so.

Bursaries are not only fantastic opportunities for the recipients, giving them access to such a great school, but they also benefit the entire student base, attracting talented girls who would otherwise go elsewhere, and adding to the diverse fabric of the school.

Withington was a springboard for me from university through to my legal career and I hope that my contribution will help create that springboard for other girls over the coming years.



DEAR DONORS



I would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support to the Bursary Fund. It is the support of generous individuals like you that enables girls to develop their true potential at Withington Girls' School.

I am Zara, a Bursary recipient and Bursary Ambassador for the school. I have been studying at Withington Girls' School for seven years and am going on to study Medicine at university. Besides academia, I enjoy leading a volleyball club, playing the piano, and attempting to learn various languages.

My brother is autistic and there is always a worry about being able to support him in the future, as he won't be able to care for himself. The best option was for my sister and me to attend an independent school to give us the best chance at being successful in life. That way, we could care for our brother with less worry. Despite wanting us all to have the best education possible, sending all of us to independent schools would have been very difficult for my parents. Only one of my siblings would have been able to attend private schooling without additional help. As the eldest, taking away those opportunities from my siblings would have been heart-wrenching. Thanks to the

generosity of the Bursary Fund both my sister and I can attend this school together and benefit from the many opportunities here.

I truly believe that the Bursary Fund is an integral part of school life at Withington, making all pupils feel welcomed regardless of their financial background and supporting girls in having the best start in life. Studying at this school has not only given me a high quality of education, it has given me the freedom to find my interests through extra-curricular activities and made me feel part of a wider community. The environment in the school has shaped me into a conscientious individual and has taught me to look further than just excelling in my studies.

I feel so thankful that I have been able to have the privilege of being in such an environment, and hope that many other girls in my situation can flourish as I have and benefit from the Bursary Fund in the future. School life without my fellow Bursary recipients wouldn't feel complete, and through our diversity we all contribute to the unique, welcoming ethos of the school. As pupils, we all learn from each other, and are grateful to have the opportunity to do so through the Bursary Fund.

I wish to thank you again, wholeheartedly, for giving my sister and me the means to receive an education that will unlock doors in our lives. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel.

With kind regards and sincere thanks,

ZARA



THE EMILY SIMON SOCIETY

The Emily Simon Society recognises those who have pledged to remember Withington with a gift in their will. Their generosity will help to transform the educational experiences and opportunities for many future generations of girls and young women. We were delighted to welcome members of the Emily Simon Society to school recently when they were able to meet some of our Bursary Ambassadors and hear about Withington's long-standing support for Mama Tamba Nursery in The Gambia. We were privileged to welcome back four former headteachers, Miss Hulme, Mrs Kenyon, Mrs Pickering and Mrs Marks, who, along with our current Headmistress, Mrs Haslam, were happy to pose for a photo which allowed us to capture for posterity the moment of having five WGS Headmistresses together.



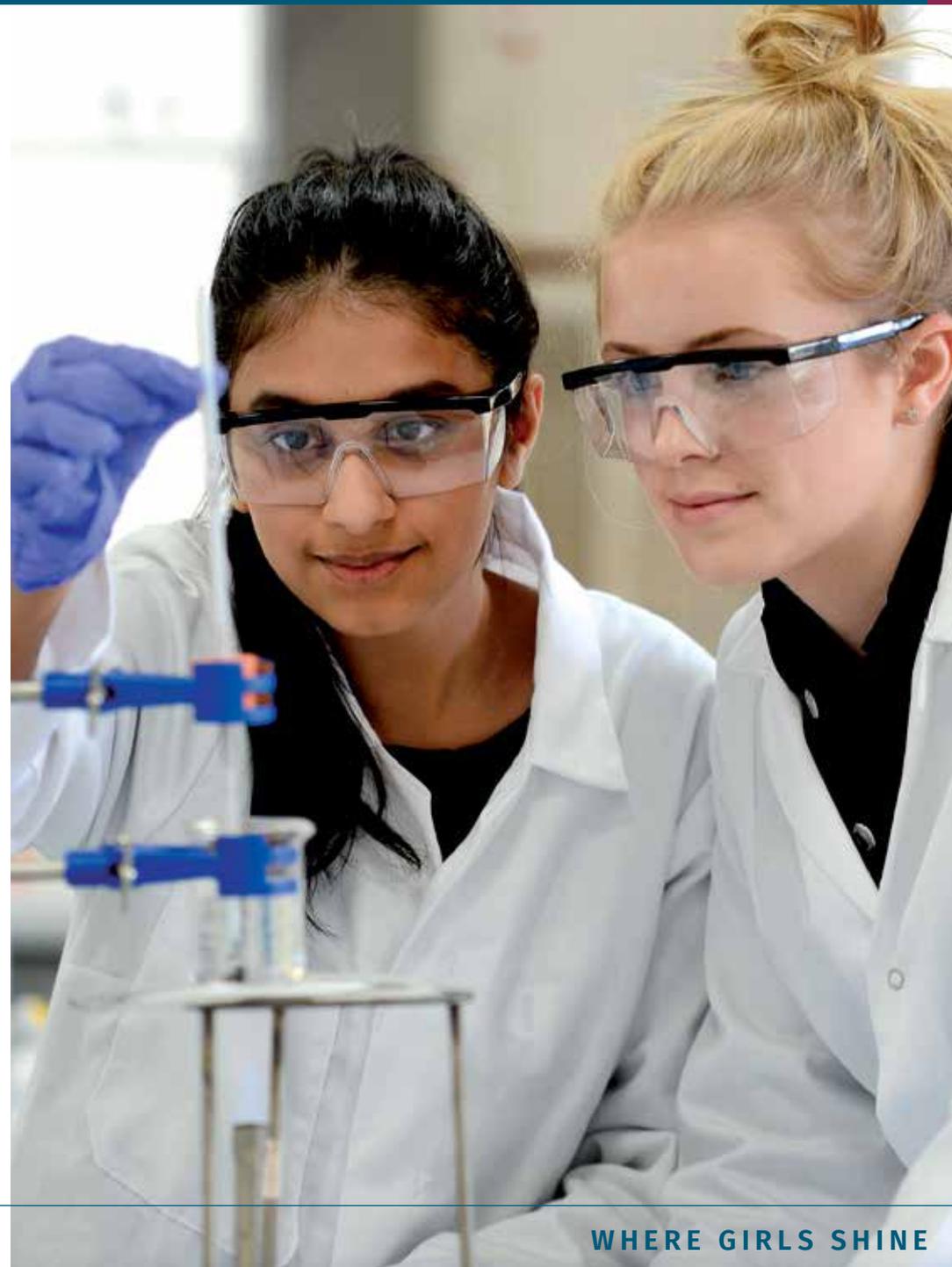
Mrs Margaret Kenyon, Patron of the Emily Simon Society, shares her thoughts on the importance of legacy giving:

"Emily Simon was one of Withington's first major benefactors. Her most lasting legacy was the gift of our playing fields in 1920, shortly before she died. Without this gift the School would have been immeasurably poorer. One hundred years later the girls still enjoy them every day. Emily had lost three of her four sons in the First World War; how extraordinarily generous and farsighted of her, in such tragic times, to be thinking of future generations of girls who would benefit.

Now it is our turn to think of the young. I went to a school not unlike Withington, but under the Direct Grant system, my seven years there were entirely free. Tuition at university was also free, with generous maintenance and even travel grants. No debts for us to worry about and jobs waiting for us when we graduated. We have been very lucky. The world looks so different now.

As a Patron of the Emily Simon Society I am honoured to be able to contribute to the future of the School, and hope that many others will feel the same, so that the outstanding education Withington provides will continue to be accessible to future generations. A truly worthwhile cause."

MRS MARGARET KENYON
Headmistress (1985-2000)



WITHINGTON CALLING 2019

We had a fantastic response to our 2019 telephone campaign. We are thrilled that your generous donations raised close to £93,000. Most of that amount was pledged to our Bursary Fund. You are helping to ensure that Withington retains its position as a true centre of excellence, open to all, regardless of financial circumstances.

The support we received for our Ad Lucem Fund (formerly known as the Annual Fund) will help to enrich the lives of all pupils at the school. We were also overwhelmed with the many kind offers we received to volunteer to come into school to speak to our students about your professional experiences. This is an invaluable resource and helps to inspire and inform students as they make decisions about their futures.

The calling team was made up of current sixth form pupils and recent alumnae and we would like to thank them for contributing to the success of the campaign.



NUMBER OF
**CURRENT PUPILS
AND RECENT
LEAVERS ON THE
CALLING TEAM**

13

NUMBER OF ALUMNAE
& PARENTS SPOKEN TO **555**

OFFERS OF SUPPORT FOR
OUR CAREERS PROGRAMME



TOO MANY TO COUNT!

AMOUNT GIVEN TO SUPPORT
**BURSARIES & ENHANCE THE
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE
OF ALL OUR PUPILS**

£92,926

THE **IMPACT** OF THE WITHINGTON
EDUCATION **YOU ARE SUPPORTING**

BEYOND MEASURE!



YOUNG ENTERPRISE AT WITHINGTON

The Young Enterprise Company Programme gives students the opportunity to develop their enterprise skills and competencies through the practical experience of setting up and running their own company. This year there are two Withington teams taking part; *Lovender Botanics*, selling lavender-based toiletries and candles and *Youphoria*, who have been selling a 'care package' of items to provide positivity and comfort.

They have progressed well through the competition, facing the challenges posed by the outbreak of coronavirus with characteristic Withington spirit

and determination. The North & South Manchester finals were held with companies submitting their entries digitally.

We're delighted to report that *Lovendar Botanics* were awarded 'Best Presentation' and *YouPhoria* 'Best Overall Company'. At the time of writing *YouPhoria* are preparing to compete for the Digital Greater Manchester Final on the 30th April against ten other companies from the region.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Joel Rosenblatt who has generously supported our teams' entry for this year's competition.



Youphoria put together a 'care package' which is a box of items to provide positivity and comfort on those 'off' days.



Lovender Botanics sold lavender-based toiletries and candles all beautifully presented in their own designer packaging.



THE AD LUCEM FUND

Formerly known as the Annual Fund, this supports projects across the school to enhance and enrich the girls' learning, but which fall outside the annual school budget. Your support has helped to provide:



A new outdoor health and wellbeing area, supporting pupils and staff in leading healthy, happy lives



Equipment for Drama Studio 2, providing further opportunities to develop, support and inspire girls in the dramatic arts



Sports shelters for our new all-weather pitch, keeping teams and supporters dry

An interactive STEM showcase day, inspiring girls to pursue careers in STEM subjects where women are traditionally under-represented, is also being planned. At the time of writing virtual learning is in place for our school due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19.

We are exploring ways that we can hold the STEM day as part of the virtual curriculum.

Thank you for your generosity. Plaques acknowledging your support have been positioned on or next to the equipment.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

We are very fortunate that members of the wider Withington community are also extremely generous with their time to support and enrich the educational experiences of our students.

Parents, alumnae and friends of the school have answered the call to present in assemblies, at careers conventions, careers talks, to buddy up with students who are starting life at university, to invite students to visit their places of work and to support at other alumnae and development events. The benefits that this provides to our students is incalculable and very much appreciated by the girls themselves.

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE
OFFERING SUPPORT
WITH CAREERS ADVICE FROM
TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN**

135

**NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS ·
GIVING TIME TO SUPPORT EVENTS IN 2018-19 ·
OVER
40**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

IN 2018-19



258



GENEROUS DONORS

DONATED AN AMAZING
£131,624



THROUGH
1,894
SEPARATE
GIFTS



withington
GIRLS' SCHOOL EST 1890

wgs.org

Withington Girls' School, Wellington Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6BL
T: 0161 249 3494 E: development@wgs.org Registered Charity No. 505207