

**YOU MAKE  
THE**

**DREAM**

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**CE**



**Withington**  
GIRLS' SCHOOL EST 1890

# THE BURSARY FUND



In honour of former Headmistress, Miss Hulme's 100th birthday at the end of 2022, and in recognition of her foresight and the instrumental role she played in creating the bursary fund at Withington Girls' School in 1976, we decided to rename the fund The Marjorie Hulme Bursary Fund.

When the Direct Grant scheme ended and the governors decided that Withington should become an independent school, it was she who realised that something was needed in order to maintain the founding ethos of the school; that Withington should remain a community centred on equality and opportunity, regardless of a pupil's social background and financial situation.

Today, the Bursary Fund continues to uphold those aims and it is our ambition to move from 1 in 6 to 1 in 5 Senior School students receiving means-tested bursary support: equivalent to an additional 10-12 bursary students. To support these bursaries in perpetuity will require donations totalling over £2 million.

Over the years, countless girls have benefitted from all that a Withington education has to offer and have gone on to flourish in their chosen professions. We are extremely grateful to all our current donors for their support in helping to realise this ambition.

*"Withington helped me to realise that being passionate about learning is an incredible gift that allows me to fulfil my curiosity and engage with others who feel similarly. Receiving this bursary has helped me to understand my potential, in the same way that it helps many other girls excel in ways which would be unattainable elsewhere."*

RIDA, WGS Bursary Ambassador

## IN 21-22:

# £300,485

WAS GIVEN BY **463** DONORS  
THROUGH **3,012** SEPARATE GIFTS

# 273

DONORS MADE **MONTHLY, QUARTERLY OR ANNUAL DONATIONS** WHICH SUPPORTED **4.5 FULL BURSARIES** FOR A YEAR

## MEANING THAT IN 22-23:

# £839,487

INVESTED IN BURSARIES  
SUPPORTING **96 PUPILS**

# 65%

IS THE **AVERAGE LEVEL**  
FOR BURSARY SUPPORT

# 80%

**OR ABOVE** FEE SUPPORT IS  
BEING RECEIVED BY **38 PUPILS**

# YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE... WHERE GIRLS SHINE

# THE 1890 CIRCLE

We recognise that today's donors continue to play an instrumental role in continuing the founding ethos of Withington to offer educational opportunities to all girls who have potential, despite economic circumstances, and to provide all our pupils with the best educational experience possible.

In April, we launched the 1890 Circle. This honours those donors who, over the years, have given significant support that helps uphold this founding ethos. At a lunch at school, a plaque was unveiled by two current Sixth Form Bursary Ambassadors. Donors were presented with a specially commissioned picture of the school created by a former student, Alex Sykes.

We are grateful to all our donors, without whom we would not be able to support 1 in 6 of our Senior School students to have the opportunity to attend Withington.



# ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

In April, former parent, Richard Bate, a partner at leading UK law firm, Weightmans, presented an online Estates Planning Seminar for members of the Withington community, including parents, alumnae and staff. The seminar, which was very well-received by those attending, was held to coincide with our newly produced publication for those considering making a gift to Withington in their Will.

Gifts in Wills are invaluable in helping us to continue the school's aims to provide talented girls with the opportunity to shine through all that a Withington education can offer, irrespective of financial situation. The brochure can be viewed via the QR code or, if you would like a printed copy, you can request one in confidence by contacting Lesley Dowdall on [ldowdall@wgs.org](mailto:ldowdall@wgs.org).

***"When my father's ill health meant that our family's financial circumstances deteriorated significantly, we were fortunate to receive bursary support. I have decided to include the 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."***

Ros, WGS Alumna

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# WITHINGTON CALLING

Thank you to all those who gave time to speak with one of our calling team during our recent telephone campaign.

Every single one of our eleven-strong team, made up of current students and recent leavers, felt that they had benefitted from the experience and wisdom of those to whom they had spoken. As well as offering valuable university and careers advice, we are truly grateful to everyone who decided to make a gift or increase their regular donation. Your generosity is much appreciated and really does have a transformative impact on the lives of the young women you are supporting.

We are delighted to say that, over the two week campaign, just under £53,000 was raised for The Marjorie Hulme Bursary Fund, bringing us that little bit closer to our aim to increase bursary provision from 1 in 6 Senior School students to 1 in 5.

Thank you!



# AD LUCEM FUND PROJECTS

Donations to the Ad Lucem Fund enable us to support learning for all pupils in the school. This year your donations have supported the following:

- **3 colorimeters for Biology**
- **E- Harps and amps for the Music Department**
- **Mandarin Extra-Curricular sessions for Years 7-9**
- **Creative technology equipment for Art**
- **A Succah for the Jewish Festival Sukkot for Religious Studies**
- **Equipment and kit for use by bursary pupils taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award**



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# GIVING YOUR TIME

Thank you to everyone who has been so generous with their time in the last year. Pupils across the school have benefitted hugely from hearing about your experiences and careers through presentations and talks in assemblies, subject lessons and extra-curricular activities.

Alumnae still at university have been kind enough to share tips and insights with current Lower Sixth students regarding university applications and a significant number of alumnae, parents, former parents and friends of the school gave up time to conduct mock interviews for prospective medics and dentists, providing students with invaluable help ahead of their university interviews.

Being able to benefit from the expertise of our Withington community is incredibly beneficial to our pupils, supporting them as they make decisions about their future beyond Withington.

# 67 VOLUNTEERS GAVE GUIDANCE AND ADVICE TO PUPILS



# THE FIRST WGS IFTAR

In March, the very first WGS Iftar took place at Vermilion Restaurant, Manchester. It was a very special evening of warmth and friendship and we are delighted to announce that £32,000 was raised for The Marjorie Hulme Bursary Fund. This will fund more than two years of a full bursary and will support a talented girl who would otherwise miss out on all that a Withington education offers.

Guests heard from a current Sixth Form Bursary Ambassador, and from WGS Head of Religious Studies and Head of Year, Ms Bruce. Both spoke about the difference it has made to them to have experienced a Withington education, thanks to bursary provision.

We are extremely grateful to Withington parents for their support in organising this event and for their suggestion that we take the opportunity to raise funds for The Marjorie Hulme Bursary Fund. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Action for Humanity, MCR Property Group and MWG Solicitors for their sponsorship of the event. Most of all, we would like to thank all those who donated on the night - your generosity really will make a difference to the life of a young person.



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# YOUNG ENTERPRISE

We extend our thanks to the Pastest Charitable Trust for supporting our students' participation in Young Enterprise. This year's team, Rags2Bags, aimed to highlight sustainability and recycling as important principles in their business idea which was to repurpose fabric from old clothing and turn it into bags and other useful items. The team took part in a Trade Fair, an online Dragons' Den and the Area Showcase event at Manchester High School for Girls. They also successfully negotiated a partnership with a local Withington retailer who agreed to sell Rags2Bags products and who was delighted to work with a local school team. The team were a real credit to Withington throughout the competition.

We are very pleased that the Pastest Charitable Trust has agreed to continue to support the Young Enterprise Companies programme for a further two years, enabling more students to develop their entrepreneurial and business skills.



**Bespoke, recycled  
TOTE BAGS & ACCESSORIES**  
*Made from recycled denim and other materials*  
Instagram/TikTok: @rags.2bags

# LABEL ILLUSTRATIONS

The Ruth Bayley Illustration Competition was set up in memory of WGS alumna Ruth Bayley, a successful illustrator of many children's books. This year the theme set for pupils was 'labels'. The overall winner was Year 7 pupil, Beatrice. Illustrator and comic maker, Emmeline Pidgen, was our guest judge and choose the overall winners from the shortlist selected by the Art Department. There was a real variety of interpretation of this theme and demonstrable skill and creativity.

Thank you to the executors of Ruth Bayley's will who generously continue to support the competition.



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