

George Heriot's School Annual Fund Report 2007-08



Since its conception the Annual Fund has raised over £434,000.

The year's Annual Fund closed on 31 July with a total of £134,724 having been raised to benefit the three categories – Bursaries, The Foundation and General. Thank you to ALL our donors; we really appreciate your support.

FUND	TOTAL	%
Bursaries	£26,385.35	19.6%
The Foundation	£30,043.52	22.3 %
General	£78,295.15	58.1%
Total	£134,724.02	100%

Bursaries

With your support our Bursary Fund continues to be considerably enhanced, allowing us to assist with the education of a number of pupils who otherwise would not be able to come to Heriot's.

The Foundation

Donations to the Foundation are much appreciated and have provided extra assistance to Founders, to continue George Heriot's wish to educate 'fatherless bairns'.

General

We are most grateful to all the donors who have given to the General category of the Annual Fund for their generosity. As you will see from the following reports, many areas of the School and most of our pupils have benefited from your contributions. A sizeable donation was made by the Uniform Thrift Shop (as mentioned in our last edition of Quadrangle) and these funds have been earmarked to help equip the new sports facility. Donations have also enabled further areas of the Grassmarket Campus to be utilised and have allowed us to make even greater use of this area whilst waiting for planning permission. We thank you for supporting these very worthwhile projects.

Alistair Hector – Headmaster

Biology Department

In August 2008 the Biology Department welcomed a new Principal Teacher, Ann McKenzie, from St. Margaret's. Ann applied for funds to improve storage in the department; modern, flexible shelving with a range of containers to hold class supplies of glassware, etc. and for individual pupils to store project work for Advanced Higher and CREST investigations. This applies to two Biology laboratories and will greatly facilitate teaching as space will be used more efficiently and desktops will be kept clear. The department is most grateful to the Annual Fund donors for this opportunity.

Andrew Ramage – Acting Principal Teacher, 2007–08

IT Department

The ICT Committee would like to thank donors to the Annual Fund for their support in the provision of additional projectors and Smartboards throughout the School. The Computing Department had a new Smartboard and projector installed in the new computing room over the summer; Modern Languages had projectors installed in rooms 123 and 140; the Art Department had projectors installed in rooms 522, 523 and the Art Hut; the Technical Department had a projector installed in room 520 and the Classics Department had a projector installed in room 414. GMC1, GMC2 and room 418 also had projectors installed over the summer break.

Adrian Semmler – Director of IT Services

Support for Learning

The Support for Learning Department would like to thank donors to the Annual Fund for their support in the purchase of Read & Write *GOLD FOR SCHOOLS*. This is literacy support software designed to assist students with their reading, writing and research skills and can be used by all pupils. The package is particularly useful for pupils with learning difficulties, dyslexia or where English is a second language. Features of this software include: Text to Speech; Phonetic Spell Checker; Speaker Dictionary; Homophone Support; One-click Scanning; Fact Finder; Fact Mapper; Test Maker. All pupils in the School will benefit from its availability. Its use will also enable some pupils, who require Alternative Assessment Arrangements for their SQA exams, to use electronic papers which are now available. Thank you, once again, for this wonderful resource.

Valerie Higson – Head of Support for Learning

Picnic Benches and Tables

The Senior School Pupil Council would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the Annual Fund. This has allowed us to make our first purchase as a pupil body. The Council was established in order to give pupils a body through which they could raise issues and concerns pertinent to them. The 2007–08 Council was very good indeed and has already made a big impact in a number of areas around the School. One of its ideas for school improvement this session was to purchase a number of new benches for the School playground. It was important to the Council that these purchases would be eco-friendly and would provide an area where a number of pupils (about a class size) could sit and socialise as well as eat their lunch or snack.

Following research from a sub-committee, we ordered a number of the 'Marmax Winer Diner' tables. They are made from recycled materials and their design is also very sociable in that pupils can slip into or out of a seat by the edge of the bench and do not have the cumbersome climb over the bench

as per traditional picnic seating. Sitting together by the new bike shed in the School playground, the benches make quite an impact and will be well used by a variety of year groups. Thank you sincerely for giving us your support and such a generous contribution.

Carole J McGirr – Head of First Year

Kit for S1–S3 Boys' Football

Football for boys and girls at under 18 level at Heriot's was successfully introduced in 2001. Since then, whilst provision for girls has been extended to encompass all age groups within the Senior School, a shortage of available facilities and staff has meant that the only possible regular addition to provision for the boys up until now has been an under 16 team. Understandably, a steady stream of boys in year groups S1–S3 and their parents have contacted the School in recent sessions, to express their concern and disappointment at the current lack of provision for this group of pupils, within which the demand to play football is, we are led to believe, high.

In an effort to address those concerns, improve our overall football provision and encourage development of the game at Heriot's, the football coaching staff met with the School's Director of Sport, Mr Matthew Mallinson. There is now a clear strategy in place which will allow boys in S1-S3 to train regularly and enter competitions, within the national framework of both the Scottish Schools Football Association and the Scottish Independent Schools Football Association. This is a major step forward, and the prospects for developing the game for boys up to under 15 level are good for the first time ever. Furthermore, with the under 14 boys' first match in the SSFA national competition scheduled for September, the acquisition of match kit is a fundamental part of the jigsaw, without which our plans for developing the game for boys in this age group would simply not be possible. It is therefore on behalf of the coaching staff, but above all the boys themselves, that I extend an enormous vote of thanks to the Annual Fund Donors for enabling the purchase of match kit from the Annual Fund. Rest assured that your investment will be very well used and bring much fulfilment and enjoyment to those boys in S1–S3 fortunate enough to be selected to represent the School in football.

François Hédou – Football Coaching Staff

Junior School Eco Club

In the early months of this year, the Junior School Eco Club became the proud owners of three young apple trees. This acquisition so fired the children's enthusiasm that they began thinking about ways to develop a small orchard and fruit-growing garden within the School grounds. After several months of discussion, and a great deal of hoping, their vision can now be realised through the very generous gift received from the Annual Fund. The children will now be able to choose suitable native varieties of soft fruit bushes and fruit trees that they themselves can grow organically under the expert direction of Arthur Wilson, our school gardener. Junior School entrepreneurs are already developing an enterprise project that will lead to the manufacture and sale of fruit based products. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible. Your generosity means that this project can go ahead, providing many opportunities that will enable our young children to become the successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors that the new Curriculum for Excellence aims to develop. Hopefully, you will be given the opportunity to purchase and enjoy the "fruits" of their labours!

Jean Naysmith – Junior School Eco Club

Grateful thanks to all our Annual Fund donors

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