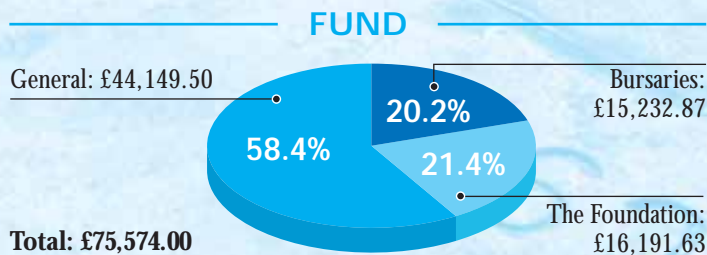




Annual Fund 2008-09 Report

This year's Annual Fund closed on 31 July with a total of £75,574 having been raised to benefit the three categories – Bursaries, The Foundation and General. Thank you to ALL our donors; we really appreciate your support.

Although the sum raised this year is somewhat lower than we have raised in the past we are not despondent as the Annual Fund has now raised over £500,000. We very much hope that in this the 350th Anniversary Year of the School you will consider becoming a donor to this worthwhile cause.



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 Foundationers, to continue George Heriot's wish to educate 'fatherless bairns'.

GENERAL FUND

Art and Design Department

At the start of the new session, teachers in the Art and Design Department were delighted to introduce animation as a new area of study, initially to S6 as an Interest Class and to Junior School pupils as an extracurricular club. This curricular expansion has come about through the support of the donors to the Annual Fund along with the expertise and enthusiasm of two members of the Art and Design Department, in particular Mrs Susanne Rasmussen and Ms Rachel Bevan-Baker (a founder member of the animation company Red Kite). Our teachers believe that animation has huge potential, which can tie in with what we are already doing and are still to discover. It should be the start of an adventure for students and the Department (animated presentation of fashion; storytelling that ties in with Junior School themes; the animated George Heriot's Story; small flick films that explain about colour; a drawing drawing itself; the moving sculpture; the story of an artist; these are just a few examples of what is possible.)

Our Animation Wish List consisted of two PC laptops, two DV Camcorders, two tripods and software. Through generous funding from the Annual Fund all of these items have been purchased and teachers have been able to embark on a new journey of discovery with pupils. We thank all donors for their support and look forward to sharing animation success.

Amanda Thomson – Principal Teacher

IT Department

Over the summer we have installed a new IT system called ClickView. ClickView is a whole school Digital Media System. It allows teachers to

utilise video in the classroom using a Computer and Projector, without the worry of DVDs, VHS tapes and Televisions. ClickView creates a central point of administration for all lesson content. This system also enables us to record and play back live television programs. This system will be extremely useful and is now available in every classroom at George Heriot's. Thank you very much to the Annual Fund for providing the finance for this new system.

Adrian Semmler – Director of IT Services

Biology Department

Inspiring the next generation of biologists....

2009 marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest Edinburgh-University educated biologists: Charles Darwin. It was also a great year for the Biology Department at George Heriot's School. Our increased pupil uptake, most notably at Higher level, placed demands on our teaching space, resources and specialist equipment. We have been delighted with the transformation of room 417 into a new, purpose-built and well equipped biology lab. In particular, staff in the Biology Department would like to thank the Annual Fund donors for their generous contribution towards new, up-to-date laboratory equipment – including hand-held colorimeters and rechargeable microscopes. Key to the study of biology, microscopes are essential items that are used regularly in all classes. Colorimeters allow us to measure colour changes during experiments. Our new models are versatile items of laboratory kit – and can be used by S1-S6 pupils alike. A big thank you to the Annual Fund donors who make it possible for us to extend our range of practical opportunities for budding biologists, across all levels.

Ann McKenzie – Principal Teacher

School Rowing Club

At the end of last session the Rowing Club was delighted to receive its new towing vehicle and would like to take this opportunity to offer a most sincere 'thank you' to all Annual Fund donors. Our rowers race all over the UK and with them travels their boats, oars and associated kit, in a thirty foot trailer. The retirement of our old towing vehicle had led to a number of logistical problems and without the generosity of our Annual Fund

donors the Rowing Club would have been grounded. However, as it stands the vehicle has already travelled to regattas in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Henley, each time performing superbly. As well as playing a pivotal support role to our Rowing Club, the new Land Rover is a resource which will be put to use throughout the School community, and whether it be shifting props for a drama production or transporting pupils to Goldenacre the kindness of our donors will not be forgotten.

Ian Munro – Rowing Club

JUNIOR SCHOOL

A sum of money from the General Fund has been put aside to acquire outdoor equipment for the Junior School. Staff are in discussion with an outside company to decide the design of equipment that would work best. News on the purchase will be reported in the next edition.



Junior School Eco Club – update

A generous grant from the Annual Fund last year has enabled many children in George Heriot's to work together and establish our new venture, the Big Fruit Garden (BFG).

The children in the Junior School Eco Club spent time poring over fruit catalogues and, with the help of Arthur, our gardener, chose a vast selection of autumn fruiting, native varieties of apples, plums, pears, redcurrants,

white currants, raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants, rhubarb and goji berries plus peaches and nectarines to plant in the Fruit Garden.

As well as the members of the Eco Club, many classes worked in the garden. Primary 7 for example, spent several tiring hours learning what it was like to "Dig for Victory" as part of their World War II topic. Primary 3 classes learned about organic gardening when they planted marigolds, lavender and chives to attract the harmful insects away from the fruit trees and bushes. This enhanced their study of their Minibeasts topic. Approximately 30 Junior School pupils have been coming along every Wednesday lunchtime to help Arthur with weeding and plant maintenance.

As expected, there has not been a great deal of produce this year, although several lucky people tasted our first small crop of berries. Next year, once the trees and bushes become established, (and barring another invasion of aphids) we hope to be making several varieties of jam, fruit smoothies and pies!

Although still in its infancy, this project is providing several worthwhile opportunities to teach the pupils about organic gardening, healthy eating, self-sufficiency, Scotland's native fruit species and business enterprise. Take a wander round the Big Fruit Garden and be inspired.

Jean Naysmith – Junior School Eco Club

The Junior School Eco Club recently visited the BFG to view ongoing progress. Here are some of their comments.

'It's really worth the wait for the fruit'. **Emma P6**

'My mouth is watering at the thought of all the fruit'. **Becca P4**

'I think the BFG is really good because you have seen all the green shoots growing up and all the plants starting to grow'. **Ross P5**

'I am so excited about the BFG because we are helping the planet by growing our own fruit and not getting it flown in and using up fuel'. **Elen P6**

The Annual Fund 2008-09 Report including a list of donors can be read on the School's website, www.george-heriots.com – under the Former Pupils/Development/Annual Fund section.

GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL OUR ANNUAL FUND DONORS

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