

## Founder's Trust News – October 2022

Welcome to our October 2022 newsletter, and an especially warm welcome to all our new families.

It's been a while since we communicated with you but we at the Trust have been working hard in the background!

The last academic year has been busy and it has been nice to get back to normal and meeting both Trustees and supporters in person again. Getting back to normal for us has included running the Dog Show at the Summer Fête, and also attending the Open Evening. These events for us are not about getting sign-ups to our Direct Debit scheme but to give parents/carers and students an opportunity to talk to us and understand what we do.



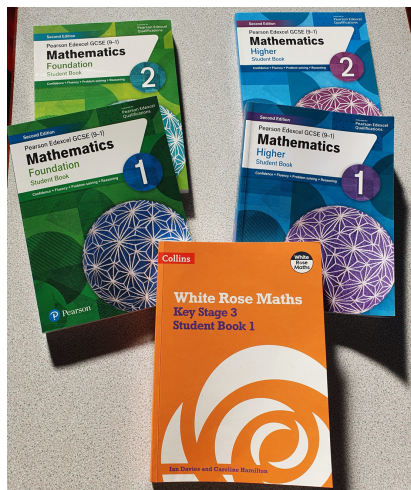
*Another successful Dog Show was hosted by the CGFT at the Summer Fête, with Best in Show being the gorgeous Naala.*



The Founder's Trust was established in 1946, so in 2021 we celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We hope that your student liked the Founder's Trust 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary badges that were distributed to all pupils. The Trust was set up in memory of the first headmaster of the school, Cecil Grant, when a sum of money was left in his Will to be put in trust for the benefit of the school's pupils.

Many of our Trustees have been serving for a long time, and as their families grow up and leave St George's we are beginning to think about planning for our future by recruiting new Trustees. We require Parent, Governor and Old Georgian Trustees from a variety of backgrounds. We meet formally 3 times per year, and support a number of events where attendance is required. If you are interested please get in touch directly with myself or via our email address [CGFT@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:CGFT@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk) to find out more.

One of the biggest projects we have been able to support the school with this year is the Refurbishment of the Maths Block. Our Trust mandate enables us to support building works such as this and as it benefits all students it was the perfect venture for us. Myself and the Trust Treasurer visited the Maths Block this week and the transformation is really amazing. I hope lots of you visited at the Open Evening. The rooms are spacious, bright and airy – very conducive to focussed learning! And of course new IT and textbooks have also been funded by the CGFT. There may be a plaque that credits the Founder's Trust, but it is the parent body supporting us that has permitted this project to happen, so thank you to all our supporters.



*The Trust is a charity run for the benefit of all St George's pupils. All families are asked to make a monthly donation per pupil by Direct Debit. The Trust also accepts one off payments. The money raised is spent annually so that our pupils feel the immediate benefit, and pays for items such as computers, text books, transport, prep books and other equipment. The Trust works hard to maintain a steady income stream to the school upon which it can depend, and plan its spending accordingly. The Founder's Trust was originally set up as a result of the will of our Founder, Rev Cecil Grant. The Trust is still going strong today as a charity and, thanks to the generosity of St George's families, collects and donates to the school approximately £135-140,000 every single year. The Trustees include "old Georgians", current parents, governors and the Headmistress.*

We at the Founder's Trust are very pleased to report that you, as families, have been continuing to support us despite times of great economic uncertainty. First Brexit, then Covid and now with the Cost of Living Crisis - it is a tough time for everybody; and I think we are all weary of the uncertainty, and continually having to adapt to whatever the latest situation is. With reduced sign ups to our Direct Debit scheme, and increased cancellations, our income will fall over the next year. If you are in a position to increase your donation due to a sibling starting, or sign up as a new supporter, we'd love to hear from you. Even a small donation can make a big difference. £3.50 per month for example, over the course of a year, would pay for an A-level Geography textbook; or £1 per month would buy a copy of a Maths GCSE textbook. Every penny matters. Every penny makes a difference.

We really appreciate your ongoing support, and if nothing else, this time has taught us how much we value our school, its staff and the extended St George's community. Thank you very much for sticking with us - the school would not be the same without you!

Thank you

Jane Hyman, Chair of CGFT, October 2022

*If you would like to support the Founder's Trust you can download the Direct Debit form from our page on the school website, and hand the completed form into the school office. <https://www.stgeorges.herts.sch.uk/cecil-grant-founders-trust> - If you would like to increase an existing donation, it's even easier – just email our treasurer on [cافت@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cافت@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)*