

## Founder's Trust News – November 2023

Welcome to our October 2023 newsletter, and an especially warm welcome to all the new families joining us in their first autumn term at St. George's.



Following the success of our Trust 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary badges, we decided to present each new Y7 a Trust pin which also reinforces the House colours. They have proved to be very popular and we intend to continue this initiative for the foreseeable future.

The new Trust pins, resplendent in the House colours.

One of the biggest projects we supported the school with last year was the Refurbishment of the Maths Block, so we were thrilled to be able to do the same again for the English department. Our Trust mandate enables us to support building works such as this and as it benefits all St George's students it is the perfect venture for us. The English Department staff very enthusiastically cleared out the classrooms in readiness, and the refurbishment works took place over the summer holidays, ready in time for the commencement of the Autumn term. Work included remodelling to create 6 classrooms and an office, new IT cabling and hardware, new furniture, etc. One of the aims of the refurbishment projects is to create consistency across the school's classrooms, with similar layout and IT provision in each one, making them more flexible and user-friendly. We at the Founder's Trust give heartfelt thanks to the parent body whose support has enabled this project to happen.



Left – one of the newly refurbished English classrooms completed over the summer.

*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.*



Left - As well as refurbishment works, each year CGFT supports the purchase of text books throughout the school. Many schools no longer supply hard copy text books, but we at St. George's believe they still have an important role to play, as can be seen by the display in the new English Department store cupboard, all bought with support from CGFT.

Right - A further hardcopy book purchase this term has been a set of 'The Lion, The Witch & and The Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis. These books will form part of the Y7 R.E. curriculum and each Y7 student will be given a copy to keep.



Each year the Founder's Trust donates a prize for two members of staff that have gone 'above and beyond' and this year was no exception. The prizes were awarded at Junior Prizegiving and were given to Claire Crowther and Tracey Ashwell. Claire works at the Sixth Form servery and was described as being "Always welcoming, always positive". She also stepped up to support the Gardening club last year, when the school was short staffed. Tracey Ashwell, as well as being a science teacher, has given time, energy and enthusiasm to support the Duke of Edinburgh enterprise for many years, in sun and rain, and also runs the school STEM club.

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. And we are thrilled to report that our Direct Debit sign ups, following a downward trend, have increased this year with nearly 50% of new families signing up. 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, it's 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, November 2023

*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 [cgft@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cgft@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)