

Founder's Trust News – July 2023

Welcome to our July 2023 newsletter, and an especially warm welcome to all the new families joining in the upcoming autumn term.

It has been a busy year for all of us here at the Trust and as well as saying good bye and thank you to long-standing Trustee Niki Kirby, we are pleased to welcome new trustees Ben Noakes and Bryan Kelly.

Ben got off to a flying start (literally) by organising this year's Trust event at the Summer Fête, 'Welly Wanging', much fun was had by all.



Another successful Summer Fête event organised by the CGFT - 'Welly Wanging', and with such fabulous prizes on offer I wish I'd made more of an effort with my underarm throw! Well done to everyone involved.

Much of what the Trust does is behind the scenes, so these events are an important opportunity for us to get involved with the school community and give parents/carers and students an opportunity to talk to us and understand what we do.

One of the biggest projects we have been able to support the school with recently is the Refurbishment of the Maths Block. Our Trust mandate enables us to support building works such as this and as it benefits all St George's students it was the perfect venture for us. So we are very pleased to have been asked by the school to do the same again – this time for the English Department. The English Dept. staff have very enthusiastically cleared out the classrooms in readiness, and the refurbishment works have already commenced, with the newly renovated rooms expected to be ready in time for commencement of the Autumn term. Work includes remodelling to create 6 classrooms and 1 office, new IT cabling and hardware, new furniture, etc. We at the Founder's Trust give heartfelt thanks to the parent body whose support has enabled this project to happen.



Left – newly refurbished Maths classroom completed last year – we are looking forward to being able to share photographs of the remodelled English Department in the Autumn!

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.

Each year the Founder's Trust donates a prize for those members of staff who have gone 'above and beyond' and this year is no exception. Prizes will be awarded at the Junior Prizegiving so we cannot reveal the winners as yet, but we can say that they are well-deserved. Names will be disclosed in our next Newsletter.

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. 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, July 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