



Development at Wycombe High School

2010 - 2011

CHALLENGING TIMES

We want the very best for our students, and at a time when educational costs are rising rapidly and the level of state funding is deteriorating, we need to build capacity for further improvement.

The well-reported challenges with school funding highlight the difficulties we face in providing the facilities and education we would like, and provide a foretaste of the tough financial times which state education will undoubtedly face during your daughter's time at Wycombe High School.

THE FUTURE FUND

The Future Fund is Wycombe High School's name for monies donated to us by parents, friends, the Guild (former students and staff), etc. Regular giving to the school's Future Fund plays a vital role in enhancing the education of every one of our students. Supporting Wycombe High School through these challenging financial times with a monthly pledge is one such way.

All gifts made are extremely valuable to us and will enable us to carry out a number of projects which will support your daughter's education and contribute to her well-being during her time with us. All donations received are strictly confidential and your decision about whether to take part will not in any way affect your daughter's time at the school. We have a strong tradition of parental giving; we are, and will continue to be, very grateful for this and the real difference it makes to our school.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

WAINWRIGHT LEARNING CENTRE

Wycombe High School's first major fundraising campaign delivered the Wainwright Learning Centre, which opened in September 2006. Started in 2003, the campaign raised almost £1 million from parents, friends, old girls and business sponsors.

The Wainwright Learning Centre provides students (and staff) with a learning resource centre fit for 21st century learning and teaching, with a modern library, computer facilities for online research and an Internet café and mezzanine for collaborative group working. Thanks to the generosity of our parents and friends the Learning Centre has been a huge success with girls throughout the school and will benefit your daughter throughout her time at WHS.



INSIDE



INTERNET CAFE



OUTSIDE

SCIENCE LABORATORY REFURBISHMENT

Monthly pledges support initiatives such as the continuing refurbishment of our older Science Laboratories. With current contributions from parents we have upgraded two science labs and have a rolling three year programme to upgrade the remaining labs. We recently transformed two labs from 20th century to 21st century teaching laboratories.



BEFORE



AFTER

THE FORUM

With the help of parental contributions to the Future Fund, a traditional school canteen was transformed into The Forum, with modern, café-style environment

incorporating a community table, high tables with stools and banquette seating. The refurbishment included a new healthy, good quality and value for money menu, and faster all day service. And with the help of Wycombe High School's Parents and Friends Association (PAFA) a soft seating area was created. Outside previously underutilised spaces now provide comfortable, shaded areas for eating and working.



INSIDE



SOFT SEATING AREA



OUTSIDE

WHAT NEXT?

Building on the successes of the Wainwright Learning Centre, Forum and Science Lab refurbishments we have developed a 10 year site development strategy, from which a number of specific projects have been identified. These include:

- Refurbishment of the Christie science laboratories (continuing);
- Refurbishment of the Christie student toilets (continuing);
- Upgrade of the outdoor sports facilities;
- Improved Sixth Form centre;
- New School Shop;
- New Performing Arts Centre with community use.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WE ALREADY PAY TAXES WHICH SHOULD GO TOWARDS THE UPKEEP OF THE SCHOOL, WHY ARE YOU ASKING US TO SUPPORT THESE FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES?

As a state-funded grammar school we have no fees to support us. By raising additional funds through regular parental donations, we can move at pace to provide the facilities and resources that we feel are essential to support your daughter's education here and the education of future generations.

WILL OUR CONTRIBUTION CLOSE DOORS TO OTHER FUNDING?

No. In fact, quite the opposite. By raising money we can often attract additional matched funds from central and local government and from other grant-making bodies. For example, we have Mathematics and Computing Specialist School Status. To achieve this designation we had to raise £50,000 in sponsorship. In recognition of achieving this we have attracted a £100,000 grant from central government, plus over £140,000 per year for subsequent years.

AREN'T THERE OTHER WAYS TO RAISE MONEY?

Yes, and we are pursuing these routes, too. We applied for, and were awarded, a grant of £50,000 from the Wolfson Foundation to provide the new Learning Centre with IT equipment. This very generous grant enabled us to install PCs, laptops and software, so that students have full access to the Internet and ICT facilities for independent study.

Our strong Parents and Friends Association raises money each year through a range of social events; we hire out our premises to sports and other groups; we submit bids for additional funding through grants, trusts and foundations and we attract commercial sponsorship.

IS THE FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING GOING TO AFFECT MY DAUGHTER'S EXPERIENCE AT WYCOMBE HIGH SCHOOL?

Only in a positive way. We will be able to put in place the resources that we feel are key to supporting your daughter's education at Wycombe High School. Your daughter will leave us as a confident and creative young woman, equipped with the educational and social skills to meet the demands of the 21st century.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Please support our initiatives by making a regular donation to the school. Everyone's personal circumstances differ. No matter the size, every gift is meaningful, every gift has value.

If you are a UK Taxpayer by giving through the Gift Aid scheme you can increase your gift to us by 25%. Higher rate tax payers can claim additional tax relief. ***We have already been able to recover over £100,000 from the Inland Revenue, making it the largest single donor to the school.***

If you are working, your firm may offer a matched funding scheme. Some parents have also made company donations, which result in corporation tax savings for the company as well as benefiting the school.

Please commit to helping us by completing the Future Fund Gift Form and returning it to school by 7 July using the enclosed self-addressed envelope, or hand it in during the New year 7 Parents' Induction Evening on 8 July.

Please help us to realise our plans by giving generously, as others have done.