

OUR SCHOOL FUND

Information Booklet

WHAT IS OUR SCHOOL FUND?

Government funding for schools is under significant pressure. Over the past ten years we have seen a considerable reduction in the amount of money we have to invest in the facilities we provide for our students, and our ability to enrich their experience outside of the classroom.

Schools across the country have been hit by rising prices – including massive jumps to our energy bills – and increasing staff costs that have not been fully funded by the government.

More than ever, we are relying on the generous voluntary donations that parents, carers and alumnae contribute to provide the very best for our students.

Our School Fund empowers our school community to voluntarily support our extracurricular enrichment programme, and to help improve our facilities further.

We consider this provision a key part of our vision to provide a holistic experience for our young people, which focuses on social, cultural, and emotional capital as well as high academic achievement.

Two of our school values are **courage** and **endeavour**. Our School Fund gives us the resources to support our students in exploring these key development areas outside of their academic studies.

PAST PROJECTS IT HAS FUNDED

Over the past few years, projects that our School Fund has supported (either funding in full or helping us go beyond the 'basics') include:

- An annual contribution to fund enrichment such as extra music groups and PE clubs, transport to fixtures, and to facilitate a wide range of competition entries such as the Arkwright scholarship, robotics and computing competitions and related hardware.
- A major contribution to a Department for Education-funded project to significantly improve the security and safety of the school site. The School Fund contribution will enable us to create a better pedestrian access to the front office, with more lighting and a more inclusive pathway.
- The replacement of the floor in the sports hall, ensuring the surface is high quality and appropriate for all different types of activities.
- The decoration and fit out of the ground floor of the new teaching block, to create three new classrooms and a study area for our growing sixth form.
- The refurbishment of two new science laboratories to complete our suite of thirteen science-specific teaching spaces critical for a school like ours where chemistry, physics and biology are so popular.
- The school astrodome and observatory has been upgraded to ensure its wider use in lessons and beyond – something unique to our school.



FUNDING FUTURE PROJECTS

In the future, we are asking for regular voluntary donations to enable this investment in our enrichment activities to continue, as well as raise funds to support a number of new projects such as:

- We would like to reconfigure the school reception space, to make it a more inclusive and welcoming space for students, parents, carers and other visitors.
- We would like to upgrade our sixth form common rooms to better support independent study, in response to the increasing number of sixth form students.
- We would like to repair our long jump pit.
- We would like to replace our cookers in our food nutrition rooms.
- We would like to increase the breadth and depth of our enrichment projects, giving us the resources to employ coaches to support our students' creativity such as visiting artists, authors, lecturers. This would also cover the costs of competitions - our students often get to regional/ national finals which are often cost-prohibitive.

Mrs Alexis Williamson Headteacher

HOW MUCH TO DONATE

Obviously how much you choose to donate is a personal decision and entirely voluntary. Parents often ask us how much we think is reasonable.

Most parents donate £50 per month by regular standing order, although some choose to donate more – it's entirely up to you. Every pound you give us, no matter the value, helps us deliver exciting and rewarding activities for your children.

WHAT IS GIFT AID?

As a member of the Girls' Learning Trust, Nonsuch High School for Girls has the same status as a charity. Gift Aid allows UK charities to claim back the basic rate tax already paid on donations by the donor. This means we can claim back from the government on your behalf 25p for every £1 donated, boosting the value of the donation by a quarter.

To enable us to claim Gift Aid, you need to:

- Be a UK taxpayer (Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax).
- Have paid at least as much in UK tax in that tax year as the amount of Gift Aid we will claim.
- Complete a simple Gift Aid declaration form by clicking on this link: <u>Gift Aid Declaration</u>.

Gift Aid does not cost you anything extra, but it makes your donation go further.

You can find out more about Gift Aid here: www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/gift-aid.

HOW TO DONATE

Donating money to the School Fund couldn't be easier. There are three different ways depending on your preference.

1. DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

We have set up a special donation page with our trusted provider, ParentPay, where you can make a one-off card payment, please click here: <u>Donation Page</u>.

When making the payment you will be able to notify us if you wish to contribute Gift Aid, completion of the separate Gift Aid Declaration form linked above is not required for ParentPay donations.

2. BANK TRANSFER

You can donate directly from your bank app:

Account Name: GIRLS LEARNING TRUST- SCHOOL FUND NHSG

• **Sort Code:** 30-98-36

Account Number: 01682590

• **Reference**: Year-TutorGroup-[ChildSurnameInitial]

Please remember to complete the Gift Aid Declaration form linked above.

3. STANDING ORDER

For **regular donations**, simply set up a *standing order* in your online banking app using the same details:

Account Name: GIRLS LEARNING TRUST- SCHOOL FUND NHSG

• **Sort Code:** 30-98-36

Account Number: 01682590

• **Reference:** Year-TutorGroup-[ChildSurnameInitial]

Please remember to complete the Gift Aid Declaration form linked above.