

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 7721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Ref: GSDF/ME/TF

5th February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Governors' School Development Fund

For a considerable number of years the Governors have managed a voluntary donations fund, "*The Governors' School Development Fund*," that generates essential revenue, which is used to improve the quality of teaching and learning provided by the school to our students.

The main source of income to this fund is the incredibly generous voluntary monthly and annual donations made by many of our students' families. It has enabled us to deliver a number of improvements over the past few years including the refurbishment and refurnishing of classrooms, improvements to pupil toilet facilities as well as support to larger projects such as the recent re-roofing, recladding and window replacement to one of our main teaching blocks. Further projects of this nature are planned including the refurbishment of more classrooms, toilet facilities, the expansion of the pupils' canteen facility and work to improve lighting and heating controls in some of our older buildings. We are also in the early stages of planning an exciting project to install a six-lane athletics track and 3G football pitch in the School grounds.

Whilst we are excited about these planned improvements, you will know how tough the current financial climate is and how schools are facing increasing challenges due to changes in the way they are funded, making the costs of delivering education ever greater. Funding issues combined with some critical infrastructure improvements that need to be made to secure the quality of the learning environment, mean that the Governors' School Development Fund is more important now, than ever, to help resource what is so desperately needed without diverting core school money away from front-line activity.

We understand that for many, personal finances are equally challenging however, without your voluntary contributions we may not be able to continue our important work that genuinely benefits your children now, and creates a legacy for other students in the future.

The number of parents who currently contribute is quite a bit lower than it has been in recent years; the number of new contributors is fewer than the number who have ceased their contributions when their direct involvement with the school comes to an end as children move on to further education or into the workplace. I have written in the Oaklands Newsletter about my wish to see this trend reversed and therefore ask all parents and carers who are not currently making a voluntary contribution to kindly consider making a voluntary donation and I offer the following as indication of how a little can actually quickly accumulate into a really useful sum which when added to more donations really does give us the power to do something really good for the pupils:

- 53 pence per child per school day (or a maximum of 79p per family) equates to £100 per child per year (or a maximum of £150 per family) or
- 39 pence per child per school day (or a maximum of 63p per family) equates to £75 per child per year (or a maximum of £120 per family) or
- 26 pence per child per school day (or a maximum of 39p per family) equates to £50 per child per year (or a maximum of £75 per family)



A Specialist Humanities and Science College



Community Unity Opportunity



Diocese of Portsmouth

All the above options are considerably cheaper than many daily newspapers or that coffee bought on the way into work. Of course, we would be delighted to accept any voluntary donation and whatever amount you can afford will directly help us to help your children.

If you are willing and able to contribute, and are a UK Tax Payer, we would also ask that you complete a Gift Aid Declaration form and return it to the Schools Finance Office, or log in online through Scopay.com and register, as the school can currently claim 25p for every £1 donated against the tax you pay.

You can make a one off (hopefully annual) payment by cheque, via School Pay or online to:

Account Name: The Catholic Academy (Deposit 2 Governors)
Sort Code: 55-70-34
Account Number: 80745024

Alternatively, you can spread the cost by arranging a standing order from your bank account by completing the attached form.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to express our most sincere thanks for the voluntary contributions that you currently make, and hopefully others will now also make, to the Governors' School Development Fund.

Yours sincerely



Marc Evans
Chair of Governors

Some of the work that the Governors' School Development Fund has recently contributed towards:



Refurbishing the laboratories in the Science Department and bathroom facilities across the school site



Upgrading teaching spaces



Delivering major infrastructure upgrades that will endure for many years to come.

