

Chair's report – July 2016

This year, the Friends have raised around £93,000 through the generosity of our donors and the recovery of Girt Aid. As the school's available budget is ever tighter, the money that the Friends is able to contribute to the school continues to be of vital importance. Over the past 5 years the Friends have been able to provide around £1/2 million of additional funding.

This year we were able to provide £45,000 emergency funding to the school to enable them to repair and refurbish the gymnasium which had to be closed at the start of the academic year due to leaking making it unsafe for use and putting the expensive flooring in jeopardy. Now we are in the process of funding an upgrade of the IT infrastructure and provision of IT resources, a project costing around £100,000.

It is through the amazing generosity of parents and others that the Friends is able to support the school in this way, so I would really like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their donations to the Friends. These contributions really do benefit our students.

To those parents who have not contributed to the Friends in the last year I would appeal to you to consider whether this year you might be in a position to make a donation towards the vital work of the Friends. Just £1 a month could make a difference.

I would like to thank all our trustees and Dawn Pritchard, our donations secretary, for their hard work over the past year. I would also like to welcome Joanne Clow who joined us as a trustee at last year's AGM and Lindsey Cooper and Laura Myers who were co-opted during the year. A special thank you goes to Marina Stone who is leaving us after many years as a trustee and our publicity officer - thanks for everything you have done for the Friends. I would also like to thank Mrs Stevens, Mr Williams and the school admin team for their support throughout the year.