RENEWING THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL
AND SECURING ITS FUTURE
Since its foundation over 150 years ago by The Oratory Fathers, one constant in The London Oratory School’s history has been its sustained excellence. The School draws its pupils from right across Greater London and from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. This diversity is a key strength and from it flows not only academic excellence but also confident, compassionate pupils, well equipped to take their places in an increasingly complex world and to serve their local communities.

Sadly, the excellence that The London Oratory School achieves across a broad band-width is not matched by the quality of the School’s physical facilities. Many alumni and parents, whilst remaining very warm and loyal to the School, have remarked on the tiredness of its classrooms and buildings. We listened carefully to these comments and, in 2011, with the unanimous backing of the Governing Body, commissioned a master plan for the renewal of the whole school site.

We are delighted that, through prudent financial management, a generous contribution from the Friends of The London Oratory School (FLOS) and a significant capital grant from The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, we have been able to start work on our renewal plan, the first phase of which was completed in Autumn 2014. We now need the help of benefactors from across the wider school community to galvanise the next phase of the School’s renewal and to “future proof” the School so that the excellence it provides now can be maintained for the generations of pupils and staff to come.

This is a unique opportunity to be involved with one of the world’s leading schools during an exciting and significant period in its history. We will require substantial support but, with the generous assistance of our many friends and supporters, we are confident that we can complete the renewal of our school to provide the facilities for teaching and learning that our staff and pupils richly deserve and to secure for generations to come its position as one of the world’s great schools.

David McFadden
Headmaster

Ignatius Harrison
Chairman of the Governing Body
OUR NEEDS NOW

THE CURRENT FUNDING SITUATION

The London Oratory School is a state funded school. It converted to Academy status in 2011 meaning that it is now directly funded by central government rather than via the local authority. However the financial challenges it faces now are, like many schools, greater and more testing.

Over the past few years since the financial crash, funding of schools has stagnated; sources of funding which were in place several years ago have been stopped, and protection which was put in place to limit the effect of these cuts is coming to an end.

Previously the School was able to earmark part of its recurrent funds for capital projects, but there is no longer the flexibility in the budget to do this. Meanwhile sources of capital funding are becoming more restricted and the competition for them has become fiercer. The School needs to ensure it has the facilities to support an ever growing curriculum and to give its pupils the best education they deserve and, therefore, ensuring it has the capital investment necessary is essential.
CURRENT CAPITAL PROJECTS – WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

Phase one work started in summer 2013 to create a new central cloistered atrium at the heart of the School. This involved the demolition of St Philip’s Hall and the gymnasium as well as the relocation of the fitness centre. Through this project the School has facilitated:

- Five new classrooms
- A new science laboratory
- The extension of 23 existing classrooms
- A new ICT learning resource area
- A new library and a series of seminar rooms
- A new Sixth Form Centre

The cost of this first phase of work was in excess of £6m and was fully funded through a combination of a capital grant from the local authority supplemented by the School’s operating surpluses as well as a significant contribution from the Friends of The London Oratory School.
MEDIUM-TERM PROJECTS - FOR WHICH WE ARE SEEKING SUPPORT, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

Covered Sports Area

Funding needed: £921,000

This project creates an all-weather, covered sporting facility on the playground. The School’s grass sports pitches are situated at Barn Elms, a 30 minute coach ride from the School. In order to properly train for interactive contact sports, such as rugby or hockey, it is intended to create a covered area at the School. Approximately the size of an adult football pitch, this area will have a 4G Astroturf base to enable the kind of contact training that currently cannot be performed on a concrete playground. In addition it provides suitable shelter for pupils to be outside during lunch weather. Planning permission has already been sought and granted.

Project timetable

Design phase: two months

Construction phase: three months, maximum
Religious Formation Centre and Multi Use Hall
Funding needed: £4,107,000

This project supplements the School’s Arts Centre built in the 1990s, with the creation of a new space above the technology workshops linking the Arts Centre with the newly relocated RE Department near the Chapel. The facility would refurbish and provide additional dedicated spaces for RE teaching, a retreat centre and a multi-functional hall which would be used as a dance studio, a facility for teaching a variety of sports, such as Fencing, that are without a dedicated teaching space. This facility may also be easily converted to a small lecture theatre for talks and presentations.

Project timetable
Design, planning and approval phase: nine months
Construction phase: nine months

Junior House Playground
Funding needed: £211,000

When the Junior House was established in 1996 a new building, adjacent to the Arts Centre, was constructed in the south-west corner of the site. The pupils in the Junior House are aged 7-11 and follow a primary curriculum alongside a specialist music course. This project provides them with a dedicated playground, separate from the space used by older pupils. Enclosed by a hedge from the proposed Covered Sports Area, the space consists of soft and hard play surfaces. The soft play area will be covered by artificial turf, with timber-topped concrete seating to the edges. Half of the playground will be hard paved incorporating coloured patterns and motifs which could be designed and/or implemented by the current pupils. The playful paintings on the macadam help the hard surface merge into the soft play area. The existing wall will be softened with climbers and planting to the base. Supplemented by equipment for play, this multi surfaced space provides lots of opportunity for rough-n-tumble play whilst also providing seating for pupils.

Project timetable
Design, planning and approval phase: five months
Construction phase: three months
Sixth Form Courtyard Area

**Funding needed: £61,000**

The Sixth Form Common Room has recently been relocated to the space which used to house the School Library on the southern boundary of the site. This facility opens out on to an airy but rather drab tarmacked road. Changing the routes used by vehicles converts an existing south facing car park into a garden with moveable planters and benches for use by sixth form pupils during breaks from lessons. The courtyard will be resurfaced with coloured strips of resin bonded gravel to enhance the space and define it from the surrounding parking areas. The wall will be rendered and painted to match the pattern of the paving thus converting an area outside of the Sixth Form Common Room into a relaxed, intimate, courtyard space, softened with surrounding planting. By contrast, the space in front of the scenery dock will be utilised for more active play with a foldable table tennis table. These areas could be used as an external teaching space.

**Project timetable**

Design, planning and approval phase: five months

Construction phase: two months

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Girls’ Changing Facility

**Funding needed: £140,000**

The School is currently without dedicated changing facilities for its sixth form girls. The number of sixth form girls has risen recently and currently stands at over 80; this is likely to rise in the coming years. At the same time, increasing numbers of sixth form girls are participating in an expanding winter and summer sporting programme. The School needs a dedicated changing facility for the sixth form girls and this project converts an old boys’ toilet block into a dedicated girls’ changing facility, with showers and toilets.

**Project timetable**

Design, planning and approval phase: three months

Construction phase: three months
**LONGER-TERM GOAL - SECURING THE SCHOOL’S FUTURE**

Forward thinking organisations establish significant endowment funds. In such funds capital is invested in perpetuity and the earnings are then used to ensure financial stability, to assist in the implementation of future projects, and to enrich opportunities for pupils both now and in the future.

By 2024 the School intends to raise a minimum of £5m by way of an endowment fund to help secure the future of the School. The main method of securing endowment funding will be through the implementation of a systematic legacy fundraising programme to be launched in 2015. Donors who would prefer to make an endowment gift in their lifetime will be welcome to do so.

**Funding required: £5m by 2024**

**The total funding required is therefore: £10,440,000**

- Endowment funding £5,000,000
- Covered Sports Area £921,000
- New drama, dance and RE facilities £4,107,000
- Junior House Playground £211,000
- Sixth Form Courtyard Area £61,000
- Girls’ Changing Facilities £140,000

**Offering your support**

**Tax-efficient giving**
The London Oratory School Foundation is a registered charity (no. 1158059) and can reclaim tax on all donations that UK tax payers make under the Gift Aid scheme. Donations made in this way increase their value to the Foundation by 25% whilst offering the donor significant tax relief.

The best ways of giving are generally:
- By spreading payments using a direct debit arrangement
- One or more lump sum gifts
- Through a company
- Through a tax-exempt charitable trust or foundation
- By direct transfer of assets, such as stocks, shares, property and works of art.
**Gift Aid**
Gift Aid enables the Foundation to reclaim the basic rate of income tax you have already paid on your gift. With the basic rate of income tax at 20%, for every £1,000 donated the Foundation will receive an additional £250 at no extra cost to you.

Higher rate (40%) tax payers can claim tax relief, calculated as the difference between the base rate and higher rate of income tax (currently 20%) applied to the gross value of the gift.

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount donated</th>
<th>Amount received via Gift Aid</th>
<th>Relief to a higher rate tax payer (£1,250 x 20%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£1,250</td>
<td>£250</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Therefore, in the example above, the cost of making a £1,250 donation to the Foundation is only £750 (original amount donated minus the relief).

**Gift Table**
The following table illustrates the power of tax-efficient giving as applied to a range of gifts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>Payment by direct debit for 5 years utilising Gift Aid</th>
<th>Actual Annual (5 year) cost to a higher rate (40%) tax payer</th>
<th>Actual annual cost to a company over 5 years</th>
<th>Single payment by Gift Aid</th>
<th>Actual total cost to a higher rate tax payer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures are based on a basic rate of tax of 20%, a higher rate of 40% and corporation tax* of 20%, rounded to the nearest pound.

* Companies can claim corporation tax relief on all donations to charities.
**Gifts of Shares**
Gifts of publically quoted shares, in addition to being exempt from Capital Gains Tax liability, also enable the donor to claim income tax relief on the current value of the shares, which can make such gifts extremely tax-efficient.

**Online giving**
Online donations can be made via the Foundation website:  
[www.london-oratory.org/foundation](http://www.london-oratory.org/foundation)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q. Why do we need a separate Foundation?**
A. A separate Charitable Foundation brings with it clarity of purpose as well as reassurance for donors that donations will be channelled into projects for which they are intended, namely capital building projects at the School and the establishment of an endowment fund to secure the School’s long term future.

**Q. Is there not a danger that a separate Foundation with an Independent Board of Trustees may not be fully aligned with the wishes of the School?**
A. Five of the seven Foundation Trustees (including the Headmaster) are also Governors of the School. This will ensure that the aims of the Foundation dovetail neatly with the strategic priorities of the School.

**Q. How can I discover more about the work of the Foundation?**
A. The Foundation will be launched formally in spring 2015. At this time there will be a number of information briefings at which the work of the Foundation will be explained. To register your interest in attending one of these sessions or to raise a separate query please email Tim Edge at tedge@los.ac

**Q. How can I pledge my support to the Foundation?**
A. Tim Edge, the Foundation Director, would be happy to hear from you. His email address is tedge@los.ac and his telephone number is 07717 294226.
Key contacts:

For queries about the building projects:

The Procurator
Robert Jones
0207 381 7628
rjones@los.ac

For all other queries, including how to make a gift:

Foundation Director
Tim Edge
07717 294226
tedge@los.ac