

Helping Hand

Set up to provide an education for the 'sons of the Poor Clergy', the St John's Foundation is being expanded with new awards for disadvantaged children



St John's has come a long way since just eight pupils sat down for the first lessons in St John's Wood in North London. Founded in 1852 through the generosity of private donors to provide an education for the 'sons of the Poor Clergy', the Foundation has since funded over 4,000 children through St John's – a remarkable achievement!

St John's is today one of the leading independent schools in the South East. Founderers play an important part in making the school a diverse and vibrant community, and we are enormously proud of what they go on to achieve. And our evolution continues – by 2014 we will be fully co-educational, with 600 pupils and six Houses for boys and three for girls.

The basis for this future growth is solid. Exam results in 2009 were our best to date and we continue our focus on developing the individual, bringing the best out of each boy and girl during their time here. We have also made significant investments in the School estate. Since 2001, over £10 million has been spent on major projects; the Performing Arts Centre, Fairfield House, a major refurbishment of the boarding houses, and now the impressive new classroom block.

Key to the future is our ability to fund future investment and our wish to stay true to our ethos of giving opportunities to children unable to consider education at a school like St John's. We are therefore widening the scope of the Foundation to cover all our fundraising activities and make this possible.

In its new expanded role, the Foundation will:

- fund a new Albany Award Scheme aimed at widening access to the School to families regardless of financial

position or background

- continue to raise funds to subsidise Founderer places for the sons and daughters of the clergy
- provide a vehicle for funding major capital projects essential for long-term development
- create an Annual Fund to make provision for short-term projects not included in the planned budget for each year.

Helping disadvantaged children

There are many examples of children that have only been able to attend St John's because of financial assistance and who have inspired their peers and made significant contributions to School life. Therefore the first priority of the St John's Foundation will be to fund two free places in each year group for families who would not otherwise be able to send their children to the School.

Named after an early patron of the school, it is intended that these Albany Award Scheme places should be given to children from disadvantaged backgrounds who would particularly benefit from both the quality of our education and our

pastoral care. We are forming partnerships with educational charities to help recruit such pupils, as well as building our links with maintained schools in Surrey and the South East.

We believe that St John's is capable of providing life-changing opportunities through the Albany Award Scheme.

Continuing support for Founderers

St John's is committed to safeguarding the future of our

“St John's is capable of providing life-changing opportunities”



History of the Albany Awards

HRH Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, was the youngest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and was an early patron of St John's School. After his untimely death in 1884, aged just 30, the Chairman of the Governors at the time, Charles Churchill, founded the Albany Scholarships in his memory – offering eight free places to St John's to deserving boys, funded by generous donations from the School's supporters.

Foundations. The costs of our Foundationer places are part-funded by an investment fund generated through past philanthropy, but over the years the cost of schooling has far exceeded the returns this fund generates. We aim to build this fund to fully cover the cost of these highly subsidised places for clergy families.

Long-term development

A quality education is about the facilities we provide as well as the teaching and support we offer. St John's has an ambitious five to ten year vision for the development of the School estate and facilities, the first phase of which is nearing completion. Future plans include:

- the expansion of the Chapel to hold the whole School in one sitting
- the conversion of the original Chapel (currently the Library) into a dedicated performance space for drama and music
- additional state-of-the-art sports facilities.

In its new role the St John's Foundation will support the School with its ongoing building programme and improvements to the School's estate. Plus, each year, it will

invite members of the St John's community to contribute to the Foundation Annual Fund, designed to provide resources and facilities for the immediate benefit to the pupils but not budgeted for in that year. Allocation could thus take into consideration individual donors' wishes.

How you can help

Prudent investment of surpluses and strategic borrowing can only get us so far. To help realise our ambitions we are reliant on the goodwill and financial support of our wider community. Over the coming months and years we will be asking Old Johnians, parents and Friends of the School to support the Foundation as and when they are able. We hope that all OJs will consider making a gift to help the Foundation achieve its goals.

Together we can make a huge difference to St John's and the education we are able to offer our boys and girls.

If you would like more information, contact Abbie Carr in the OJ and Development Office on 01372 384 424 or development@stjohns.surrey.sch.uk.