



**Dulwich College Report  
Grants from the Friends 2015-16**

The Friends' Committee, in conjunction with Dr Joseph Spence, Master of the College, agreed that for the academic year 2015-16 the College would receive a £30,000 grant to spend across a range of Faculties – English and the Humanities, Maths and Science, Modern and Classical Languages, The Creative Arts, The Union of Societies, the Junior School, the Boarding Community and Sport. These Faculties were asked to apply for funding to the Master. All requests were then considered by the Master and the Deputy Masters to ensure they met the requirements set out by the Friends' Committee.

The reports that follow give a wonderful flavour of the range of activities and initiatives undertaken by the Faculties. We consider this new approach to have been a great success.



Iain Scarisbrick  
**Deputy Master Co-Curricular**

### **Grants from the Friends 2015-16**

**Music** The Music Department sincerely thanks the Friends of Dulwich College for the grant of £2,054 for its forthcoming tour to US. The Music tour is our most ambitious tour in recent years and is centred on three major cities: Washington DC; Philadelphia and New York. The total number in the party is 53 and there are three significant ensembles performing on the tour: the Chapel Choir; a String Orchestra and a Big Band. There are smaller groups too: Original Copy, an *a capella* vocal quartet, and a five-piece brass ensemble. There will be performances in the National Cathedral, Washington DC; St Thomas's Church, Fifth Avenue, New York and a combined concert with the pupils from Grace Church School, New York. The Headmaster of Grace is George Davison, OA. The money from the Friends has gone towards supporting a small group of boys on College bursaries who would otherwise not have been able to afford the cost of the tour. All the boys concerned will of course benefit from the experience both musically and socially. **Richard Mayo - Director of Music**

**Drama** 2016 was a very exciting year for those involved in the world of Shakespeare and Henslowe. The grant received by the Drama Department from the Friends allowed us to join forces with Globe Education and Olivier Award winning playwright, Jessica Swale, to produce a play at Shakespeare's Globe in the candlelit Sam Wannamaker Playhouse. There can be no doubting the huge impact this event had on students, staff and the wider College community, and we are all grateful for the Friends' support. **Peter Jolly - Director of Drama**

**Biology** I would like to thank the Friends for their generous donation to the Biology department of £2,500 which we put towards the restoration of a number of taxidermy specimens that had been in the department for many years. They were in a very poor state of repair but are of genuine historical value both to the department and to the College as a whole. There is some anecdotal evidence that they once belonged to the collection of Alfred Wallace, a contemporary of Charles Darwin who chanced upon the idea of evolution by natural selection and whose contribution to Biology is much more appreciated now than was previously the case. The specimens have now been fully restored by a specialist taxidermist and are back in our labs where they are a useful teaching tool, especially when we are discussing natural selection or the history of ideas on evolution. I am sure they will continue to be of use and interest for many years to come. We also received a donation of £540

from the Friends towards the cost of a rainforest canopy access course that boys undertook during our expedition to Indonesia last summer, a similar amount being raised through fundraising. The activity involved training boys to use special equipment to ascend rainforest trees for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the most biodiverse part of the forest. Everyone participating agreed that this was a highlight of a fantastic trip and I would like to thank the FDC for their contribution. We would not have been able to have had the canopy experience without it. **Phil Cue - Head of Biology**

**Geography** I wanted to thank the Friends on behalf of the 34 boys from Years 10-12 that went on the October half term Geography trip to Sicily, for which we kindly received a grant of £1,330. An excellent 'geography-filled' trip was experienced by all. On the second day, the grant money contributed towards our trip to Mount Etna. Boys were able to experience the scale of the volcano and its caldera complex. After the descent, we made a stop at Piano dell'Acqua to explore the vast lava fields that were created by the 1992 eruption. The next day we took a hydrofoil to the Aeolian Islands, staying on the Island of Lipari. That afternoon we completed a 4-hour hike to the top of Vulcano. This volcano was perhaps even more spectacular for the view experienced at the top of the Tyrrhenian sea and the surrounding seven volcanic islands. Active fumaroles and the smell of sulphur brought home the fact that this volcano is a sleeping giant. Our last day saw a visit to the Alcantara Gorge. Formed by thousands of years of river erosion, the gorge has cut through part of an ancient lava flow sourced from Mount Etna. **Jo Woolley - Head of Geography**

**Spanish** On the third day of our Pamplona trip, we went to a nearby pelota stadium to watch two hotly-contested matches of what fundamentally appeared to be doubles squash minus rackets and with a very hard ball (as the boys later found out for themselves!). The next morning, boys were lucky enough to meet a retired professional who gave them a tour of the stadium and history of the sport, before receiving coaching on the very court besides which they had been spectators just the night before. The group enjoyed this so much that a second session was booked after several requests for another chance to play. I would like to thank the Friends of Dulwich College for their very generous contribution to make this great experience possible.

The Sixth Form Spanish study visit to Valencia coincided with one of Spain's biggest fiestas and, along with hundreds of thousands of tourists from all over the world, eleven Dulwich students descended on the Mediterranean city to experience it being set ablaze. Our first two days were spent on tours experiencing the lights, deafening fire-crackers, monuments, flowers, traditional costumes, music, satire and crowds that flocked to see the Fallas festival. Displayed on every corner all over the city were colourful *ninots*, giant papier-mâché figures often 30 feet tall which were set alight on the final night of the festival. This was a once in a lifetime experience and our thanks must go to the FDC who funded our guided tour of the Fallas. **Alexander Itchev - Head of Spanish**

**English** The English Department was extremely grateful for the generous funding from FDC for the new departmental publication, "Little Brown Box": a celebration of creative writing in the Lower School combining poetry and original etchings based on the boys' experiences on the learning days to Box Hill. The boys were delighted to see their work in print, all of them receiving a free personal copy of the book, and this new initiative marks the first joint publishing venture between the English and Art Departments. **Richard Sutton - Head of English**

**Junior School** The Junior School received money from the FDC to pay for the Maasai Dance Troupe who were the headline act for the Inaugural Junior School Symposium of Academic Enrichment which this year was on the theme of 'Movement'. The day was a huge success and has provided a blueprint for a further expanded programme this year which will incorporate JAPS as well. This year's theme will be Pattern and Chaos. We are very grateful for the money to support this

important part of the Junior School year as it fosters very deep, free and tangible learning to inspire the boys in their academic journey. **Toby Griffiths – Head of Junior School**

**Debating** Last summer, the Friends of Dulwich kindly helped to fund 6 boys through a debating academy run by the English Speaking Union. 6 boys went to the academy which enabled them to have intense practise with high class judges giving them feedback each day. The experience has built their confidence tremendously, and has really improved their debating abilities. The continuation of a strong debating presence at Dulwich continues to bring more and more students to the society in order to improve their own skill of arguing and public speaking. Great thanks must be extended to the Friends for helping to subsidise the cost of this experience. **Kate Simcox M I C Debating**

**French** A highlight of our inaugural Year 9 Trip to Paris last July was our morning ascent of the Tour Montparnasse, kindly funded by FDC. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the whole of the city, including the Eiffel Tower, from its 59<sup>th</sup> floor viewing platform. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the panoramic views and chatting to the window cleaners who were just about to launch themselves off the top of the building in their specially engineered cradle – a great chance for the boys to use their knowledge of French! We are also grateful to FDC for their support towards the Upper School trip to Paris through funding the guided tour of the Paris Catacombs and the Stade de France. These excursions gave a fascinating insight into Paris and added unusual and interesting perspectives to the linguistic benefit derived from the trip. **Jacques Brown - Head of French**

**Italian** During a week-long Year 11 trip to Florence in February half term, boys were able to spend a day in Siena thanks to funding from the Friends. On arrival we fuelled up with hot chocolate from Nanini's and then headed off to Piazza del Campo and a visit to the Museo Civico with its amazing frescoes: Simone Martini's Maestà and depiction of Guidoriccio da Fogliano at the siege of Montemassi; Lorenzetti's allegory of good and bad government. After lunch, those who dared climbed up the unfinished side of the Duomo, stopping on the way to see Duccio's famous early renaissance Maestà altarpiece. The day was rounded off with a tour of the black and white marble Cathedral, including the impressive Piccolomini library. At the end of the Easter holidays boys from years 12 and 13 spent a week in Verona living with families and studying to improve their Italian. Thanks to the generous donation by the Friends, they were also able to visit Venice for a day, where they toured the city by boat and on foot, exploring the many hidden piazzas, Saint Mark's square and the Palazzo Ducale (Doge's Palace) with its own Great Hall! **Jane Briggs - Head of Italian**

**Year 9 Enrichment Week** In the final week of the year, all Year 9 were given the opportunity to experience 'learning beyond the classroom'. Each pupil selected a subject that they wanted to explore in depth. There were a range of expeditions in the UK and Europe as well as the option of staying in London and experiencing three outings in the chosen subject. Opportunities included trips to Paris, Cologne, Bath, Glastonbury and the Battlefields of northern Europe as well as visits to Tate Modern, London Zoo and Bletchley Park. Many thanks to the FDC for their generous support of this venture which will be continued in 2017. **Sarah Wood - Director of Outings and Expeditions**

**International Day** Thank you very much for your support to help us to set up Dulwich's very first International Day. On Sunday 24 April, the whole boarding community assembled outside the Laboratory to celebrate their inaugural International Day. They were joined by several day boys, staff, and governors and by some of you as well. The Big Band opened the proceedings, followed by performances from Chinese dragon dancers, who dazzled their way around the boys. The opening ceremony was concluded by a Russian Choir, who passionately sang traditional Russian and Ukrainian songs. Visitors then moved to the Lower Hall, where twelve international stalls were set up, which was the main event of the day. Each stall had one or two people in charge, who were only able to display their fascinating with your help. All of them travelled back to their own respective

country and brought over a multitude of traditional food and cultural activities, which varied from some delicious Spanish empanadas to Chinese calligraphy. This supplied the boys with a lot of confidence to express their feelings about their countries, which allowed the visitors to paint a really vivid picture in the minds. The day proceeded with an International lunch, where everybody was able to take a seat and discuss the diversity of this world. Finally, we concluded the day with a competitive tug of war, which, unfortunately for the boys, was won by the staff members, who turned out to be the strongest side. We are really grateful for your support, which allowed us open another vital aspect of the school that wasn't previously explored. We firmly believe that it is essential to recognise the diversity and to understand our similarities. Your backing made it possible for us to explore this and that is why we are so thankful for your support. **\_Shamil Amirov - 13.MA.2**

**ROAR Challenge** The FDC grant enabled 21 Year 9 students to take part in the ROAR Challenge, an after-school project created by the charity RISE, which connects students in the UK and rural West Bengal through a programme of social enterprise workshops and activities. During the Challenge, the boys attended weekly workshops that were run by WJSQ and outside business volunteers. In the workshops they learnt about the challenges faced by students in West Bengal and some core business skills. The boys were tasked with putting these skills into practice during a fundraising week, where they ran a series of enterprises. Over the week the 5 teams made a profit of £594 which was donated to RISE to help them put more students from West Bengal through a literacy programme. After the fundraising was completed, each team had to present their learning journey to an internal panel of judges, with the best team being selected to represent the school at the ROAR 'Dragons Den'. The selected team managed to finish second, with Joshua Cunningham-Barrett being selected as the best individual presenter. Whilst it was great that the boys managed to raise almost £600 and performed well against the other school, it was equally rewarding to see how the Skype interactions between our boys and students in West Bengal. **\_Will Quayle - Head of Year**

**Sport** The grant from the Friends of Dulwich has allowed us to replace all four of the non-electric scoreboards on the main site at the College. They have added a real lift to the pitches as they are branded with the Dulwich Logo and in Dulwich Colours. All the boys have commented on how smart they look and how proud they are when they see Dulwich on the front foot in fixtures. Without the support of the Friends it would not have been possible to supply these and we are extremely grateful for their hard work. **Phil Greenaway - Director of Sport**

**Sailing** The grant from the Friends was used to hire a 5th yacht on the OA sailing trip. This enabled 5 more boys to enjoy the five day trip around the Solent without the costs becoming prohibitive. Many thanks to the Friends for enabling this to happen. The following link gives a flavour of the week [https://youtu.be/b1L7JVpy\\_3Q](https://youtu.be/b1L7JVpy_3Q) **Jemima Lofts - MiC Sailing**

**Russian Soc** Thanks to the Friends of Dulwich, the Russian society was able to take the key, most dedicated members to the Almeida Theatre to see "Uncle Vanya" by Anton Chekhov. This was a unique, invaluable opportunity for non-Russian students to grasp the real Russian culture and the realities of Russian life in the 19th century. Not only this was a fantastic learning opportunity, but it was also a very pleasurable occasion, where the boys were able to enjoy a masterpiece by one of the greatest Russian authors. **Alice Lees - Head of the Union**

**DT** The £250 grant from the Friends has enabled us to buy an honours board to display the names of our Arkwright Scholars. This will have pride of place in the DT workshop and hopefully inspire our budding designers to strive to do their best. **Mike Ross - Head of DT**