

JGHS Parent Council
Small Sums Fund Applications 2023

This year the applications totalled just under £7000 to just over £10,000 (some bids were for a range of sums). Our surplus at the end of the school year 2022-23 was £5000, so we weren't able to fully fund each bid. Our funding decision for each bid is stated with that bids, and there's a summary of the applications and allocations on the separate document: Small Sums Fund Allocations 2023.

1. Biology – Laura Oudney

Funding to support AH biology field trip - £1000

I'm requesting funding to support delivery of an Advanced Higher Biology trip. The AH investigations have been reintroduced into the course for the first time in 3 years. It requires all pupils to plan, carry out and report on their own individual scientific enquiry. This trip will allow half of our AH pupils to carry out all of their data collection and providing everything they need to write their AH investigation. This is a unique experience for pupils with future aspirations in the Sciences to immerse themselves in scientific research.

Due to rising cost of transport and running costs of the centre the cost of the trip will be around £440 pp (this includes 4 nights room and board, instruction on site and transport to Benmore Outdoor Centre). I'm asking for £1000 of funding to subsidise funding of this trip. It would be used to reduce the per person cost making the trip more accessible to all pupils.

I have applied to the fund because I believe without support with funding, the cost of this trip will become prohibitive to most families. The fund would be used to reduce the cost for individual pupils, this would lead to more trip uptake from pupils and allow the trip to go ahead.

The benefits to the pupils are two-fold. Academically, it would allow half our cohort to collecting all the data they require to successfully write their AH Biology investigation. Personally, it provides the opportunity for a real world, positive and memorable experience carrying out biological research for our scientifically engaged young people.

As a teacher, the trip will allow data collection for half of our cohort in a single week, this allows us to better support individual AH pupils with their investigations and will have a positive impact on attainment in the subject. Without the trip, AH Biology investigations will all need to be carried out in school (40) which we do not have the lab space or resources to support. This would have a detrimental impact on both pupil experience and attainment in the subject.

Parent Council decision: Part funded - £605

2. Support for Learning – Ann Campbell

We have started a Bike Mechanical Workshop at the school on a Friday morning where pupils can work with a trained bike mechanic who was also a previous maths teacher at the school to learn the skills needed to maintain bikes.

Source Cost

Set of T handled Allen keys (Draper) Tool Station £20.00

Set of metric spanners (Silverline) Tool Station £31.00

Set of screwdrivers (Stanley) Tool Station £30.00

Set of cone spanners (Lifeline) Chain Reaction £20.00

Pedal spanner (Park tool PW4 Pro) Sigma Sports £39.00

Cycle repair stand (Lifeline) Wiggle £80.00
Set of pliers Tool Station £24.00
Track pump (Joeblow Sport 3) Halfords £36.50
Wire rope cutter (Knippex) £40.00
Total £320.50

The Bike maintenance Group has been really successful and has got a particularly strong group of S3 pupils who are working on the bikes from 1pm till after 2pm. They are both boys and girls, multicultural and very enthusiastic. A number but not all of the young people are using the session for their DofE Skills or Volunteering.

The pupils decided to offer a service to all pupils and staff to service their bikes for them for a small fee. The small fee goes back into buying more kit but the group is growing and so we need a number of bike-stands and multiples of some of the necessary tools. We had borrowed kit from a bike charity but they are needing the tools back. Curt Finnemore who runs the group has sent me a list of kit and tools that would be required for the project to run when we send the borrowed kit back to the charity.

Parent Council decision: fully funded

3. PE – Frank Carstairs

£500-£3000 (whatever you can contribute would be greatly appreciated!) This money would be for strips for the following teams/activities: U13s, U14s, U15s football, junior and senior basketball, and junior netball. Full sets of kit can range in cost, usually between £400-£500 but we are awaiting information from our supplier for precise costings.

Unlike previous years where we applied individually, we thought it would be best to put in a combined bid this year and explain our process moving forward. With covid damaging the provision of sport and participation levels, we are once again thriving across our extra-curricular programme, something reflected in our many sporting successes this year. Moving forward, we aim to build on this success and provide further opportunities for students to represent our school and compete at all levels. In a bid to reduce our requests for funding from you, we have partnered with Football Nation and plan to have an online club shop where students can purchase their own sportswear for their respective sports. This has been long requested by students and means that they can keep strips that not only fit well, but are in better condition. From an equity point of view, it is important that we still have full sets of strips to provide for those unable or uninterested in purchasing their own (of which there will likely be many). Long term, this will reduce the number of strips we have to replenish each year, and by having consistent styles in the club shop, students can purchase strips that will last them years without having to worry about styles changing. We also hope that students will donate old strips to help improve sustainability. The funding you provide will not only help support multiple sports teams across all year groups, but be the first step in setting up our online club shop and moving towards a more sustainable process.

Parent Council decision: £500

4. Art & Design – Gemma Grant

1. Two photography curriculum packs at £120.96 each, will allow us to set up an S1-S3 Camera Club.

Rationale: We would like to establish a club that will introduce pupils to a variety of photography skills including; understanding camera controls, gaining knowledge of darkroom processes, developing compositional techniques, developing the understanding of the visual elements. We hope to offer the club to S1-S3.

The club would lay a foundation of knowledge and understanding, which would allow pupils to pursue photography further. The club could positively impact our S4-S6 attainment, improving our Art & Design pupils' ability to use photography to support their folios. S1-S3 pupils have expressed an interest in a photography club being offered.

Parent Council decision: fully funded

2. Twenty styluses at £29.95 each, would allow us to deliver digital art lessons with all year groups.

Rationale: Digital Art is an area that many of our pupils have expressed a strong interest, and many go on to pursue Courses and Careers in Digital Art. A class set of styluses would allow us to deliver lessons in digital drawing, allowing us to make excellent use of the iPads. Introducing digital drawing for BGE will positively impact our seniors attainment.

3. Twenty Gel Press Mono printing Plates would allow us to deliver a wider range of printing techniques with all year groups.

Rationale: Gel printing is a quick and effective way for our pupils to creatively explore, composition and colour. Gel printing is excellent for creative pupils who find fine motor skills challenging, but a have good understanding of composition and the visual elements. We would like to request a class set.

4. Ten boxes of Prismacolor pencils(36) at £35.99 each

Rationale: We would like to invest in quality colour pencils. Quality colour pencils are very expensive, and we struggle to meet the demands of our senior phase. Quality colour pencils will positively impact attainment.

Total requested: £1,613.42

Parent Council decision: £500 towards bids 2-4

5. GME at Darroch – Callum MacLellan

A free-standing basketball hoop and a basketball.

Hoop: £250 <https://www.newitts.com/net1-arena-portable-basketball-set>

Ball: £20 <https://www.newitts.com/wilson-nba-drv-plus-basketball>

This is for the Darroch playground. The GME pupils at Darroch enjoy playing football in the playground and it is good to encourage self-directed outdoor play. Many of them enjoy basketball but there is currently no scope to play that. Because of the listed status of the building we are told that it would be impossible to attach a hoop directly to the wall. Having a free-standing hoop offers more flexibility anyway.

Parent Council decision: Fully funded

6. Humanities – Kathleen Bladon

£600 for Barista training to allow Princes Trust pupils to achieve the SQA Barista Skills Award alongside their Princes Trust training course.

Our current quote, from Coffee Conscience who we have worked with this year, £100+VAT per session, pupils would need three-four sessions. As the class is large this year, the class would have to be split in to two groups to achieve this. This would give us an overall charge of £720 - £960. Coffee Conscience run their training as part of their not-for-profit enterprise so I believe this will be the cheapest but I will continue to shop around for quotes!

The Barista Skills training course allows pupils to confidently work in our café at break and at lunchtime, giving these pupils skills for work. They learn to make a range of hot and cold drinks, using our new grinder and coffee machine which has been funded by a grant from the Princes Trust. Pupils who take the Princes Trust course tend to be pupils who have a variety of challenges such as living in poverty and additional support needs including social and emotional difficulties. We found that Barista training this year gave pupils confidence and practical skills, they worked as part of a team and also ran their café as a Social Enterprise allowing them to engage with the local community.

Parent Council decision: not funded

7. Modern Studies – Laura-Jane Inglis

I would like to request funding to buy books to stock an "anti racist" library for our department. I would like to buy 10-15 books to enhance our extra materials within the department. I can add specific titles and estimated costs but I would like to ask for £150.

I would like to apply for this as an opportunity to support and enhance our anti racist approach in the department and humanities faculty. Many books have been published - particularly in recent years - by Black authors who have written high quality, academic and important written responses to structural racism in society. We also have a considerable number of students in the faculty who are really keen to read more widely and to gain a deeper knowledge of many of the issues covered in class. The books would not cover the core curriculum but can be used to enhance learning for students. Furthermore, many of our students are from minority ethnic backgrounds and are having to navigate life in a society where racism is an all too common difficulty they encounter. Many of the students would benefit by having access to such resources - particularly so they can cope with the additional pressures they face. Furthermore, many of our students who do not belong to minority groups are keen to broaden their knowledge of anti racism and work to dismantle systems of oppression. As such this library has the potential to support different learners and enhance their educational experience. As a department we are always encouraging students to read more broadly as this has a significant positive impact on their educational development.

Parent Council decision: fully funded

8. English – Julie Fairhurst

I would like to be able to continue encouraging our youngest pupils in their reading journey by always having current age relevant newspaper articles available for them to use in class. Some of our families no longer buy a newspaper - some pupils cannot afford one.

Going forward it would be very helpful to have a small amount of money designated to this idea to promote the reading culture in the school and also have current, up to date, relevant articles to draw on in our close reading skills lessons and learning about feature articles that are age specific.

The cost of an annual subscription to The week Junior would be circa £140.00

The first 10 minutes of each period with years S1-S3 is designated for personal reading time. However, some pupils are unable to provide a book from home - or they simply forget. Having these newspapers enables them to still engage proactively with the reading time.

Also as we look to show pupils about using text in real life situations then having current, up to date, relevant articles to draw on is invaluable.

Parent Council decision: fully funded

9. Modern languages – Hollie Pica

Pearson Active Learn online materials for all modern languages:

Main priority: Online resources for all S2 courses - £491.61

Second priority: Audio resources for all S1 courses £509.00

The Modern Languages department are continuing to work on our long-lasting project to overhaul our curriculum. To facilitate this we have been busy creating and seeking out new digital resources and online textbooks. We are now looking to secure funding in order to continue this vision with our aim being to enhance our curriculum, improve learners' experiences and raise attainment overall.

We are aware of the importance of this budget and would like to request funding to help us to purchase the online digital textbooks produced by Pearson which have been invaluable in shaping our new curriculum.

We have outlined below the impact that we believe these resources, embedded into our new curriculum will bring to our students:

- **Raising attainment:** In languages, listening skills are always an area that pupils find difficult across the board, and it is consistently a skill where pupils achieve lower scores. Pearson's digital listening resources are up to date and accessible to pupils at home. We feel investing in these resources will hugely improve our attainment overall in listening by allowing our pupils to listen to the foreign language they study at home with regularity, as well as in class with us.
- **Reducing anxiety:** Building up these listening skills gradually throughout BGE will ensure pupils are more resilient and able to handle the trickier listening elements in their assessments in the senior phase. Furthermore, speaking performances and oral exams are for many of our pupils, a very anxious and stressful experience and exposing the pupils to listening and speaking from BGE onwards using the Pearson resources will have a positive impact and better prepare pupils for this type of listening and speaking task.
- **Closing the Gap:** Using these digital resources will allow us to provide better differentiated resources (differentiation being CEC and JGHSs current priority) as all resources come in a variety of levels of difficulty, which will allow us to more accurately set work to a pupil's level.

- Inclusion - Anti-Racist approaches: Access to these new resources will also allow us to adopt a more up to date and inclusive approach which looks to the wider French and Spanish speaking world, as all new digital resources include a variety of source material with images and references to other ethnicities, nationalities and ways of life.

Parent Council decision: fully funded

10. PE – Cheslea Ewing

Netball posts - £443 from Harrod sports

<https://www.harrodsport.com/pink-netball-posts-freestanding-16mm-ring/p-nbl-061>

Over the last season our school netball teams have made exceptional progress both recreationally and competitively. This year alone they have won Team of Year 2023, Scottish Plate (Seniors) and Scottish cup (S3s)! This has been thanks to the hours of training from all students and volunteer coaches.

There are 3 separate sessions run on a weekly basis with over 100 participants signing up. On a Thursday evening we have 2 separate session going on and unfortunately we only have 1 set of post which are used in the upstairs hall. It would be great to buy a new pair of posts so we can facilitate shooting practise during both sessions as well as have post that are of competition standards. During the rounds of the Scottish cup there were 4 teams competing in weekly fixtures across the city. Each team had 3 home games to play and we were proud to host these games but it was commented on several occasions that our posts needed upgraded. This upgrade would not only assist our competitive campaigns but it will also support the development of recreational netball. This will be a great tool for building the confidence of the young people who attend the club. Netball has also been included in our core PE curriculum. This means that students can be introduced to the sport in a relaxed class environment of similar ability. This investment will enhance the experience for those students.

This year we have also done some fundraising to pay for transport to the finals day, 1 new set of dresses and entry to the Scottish cup. We will continue to do fundraising events throughout the year to cover the costs of tournament entry, new netball bibs and we hope to get new netballs but support from the Small sums fund would be greatly appreciated.

Parent Council decision: fully funded

11. Modern studies/politics – Laura-Jane Inglis

A years subscription to the Politics Review (Hodder Gibson) at a cost of £40.

There is also a fuller subscription to the review that gives access to the full archive as well at £130 for a year

The magazine will be made available to students of Modern Studies and Higher Politics who will benefit from access to well written, accessible articles that cover key Political issues and developments. This will enhance their understanding of the curriculum and may contribute well to improving their literacy as well as an alternative source of information. With the return of the coursework element of the Nat 5/ Higher courses it is useful to have a range of sources that students can access as part of their work towards the assignments. This is a challenge in Modern Studies and Politics due to the ever changing and fast changed nature of the subjects. Although students can access information online, a magazine like this can bridge the knowledge gap for students allowing them to research more effectively.

We also have a number of students who take part in the Model United Nations who would also benefit from reading the magazine.

Parent Council decision: enhanced subscription fully funded @ £130

12. Geography/Environmental science – Christopher Stewart

Digimaps subscription - £210 for a year.

As a stripped down, pupil focussed GIS (geographical information system) platform, Digimaps allows every student in class to study Ordnance Survey maps on their iPads rather than share our diminishing paper supply.

Furthermore, this resource is available to the whole school community, all the time to enhance their learning at home, or in study time and so develop an interest in maps and what they can represent. It is also useful for sessions in Support for Learning where paper maps may not be at hand.

For students who do not have maps at home, this brings equity with those who do.

In addition, Digimaps is a powerful tool for students to create, save, print or share their own maps. This session, SQA assignments return at all levels and there is an expectation for geography students to gather map based data, process and present it. Digimaps makes the ability to do this free and quick for all students in the community. As all maps made are visible to teacher admins we can feedback quickly to students about what they are showing or where they intend to go to gather data.

As SQA markers we see that Digimaps is the most common platform to produce assignment maps in the assignments and folios we mark. It will be excellent for JGHS students to also access this resource.

Parent Council decision: fully funded

13. Modern Studies – Laura Halliday

1. Black History Month Competition S2 Prizes - £70 for winners/ and runner's up for book tokens

As part of our Black History Month celebrations in October we will be organising a famous Black Britons competition where all students in S2 across the faculty will be encouraged to create a creative presentation on the life of their chosen Black Briton. We would like to offer a book token for the winners. Perhaps a first prize of £30 and four runner up prizes of £10 each. (£70 in total).

They can choose one person or a group of great Black Britons. They can then create a unique and innovative project to celebrate their work and legacy. This could be:

- A short presentation (examples could include a slide presentation, a short film, a speech, poetry, a drama or dance performance)
- A display (such as artwork, photography, sculpture)
- A short project or campaign (such as recorded interviews, a magazine, a music project)
- Any other way of promoting the stories of Great Black Britons (perhaps a social media campaign, website design, posters)

The winning projects will be the ones that are the most innovative, that clearly show why the chosen great Black Britons were so important and that celebrate the contribution of the individual or group to our society.

Parent Council decision: Fully funded

2. Black History Walking Tour with Lisa Williams - £350 - School Trip for top 20 entrants to competition

The top 20 entries we would also like to take on a school trip - an Edinburgh Black History Walking Tour to learn about Edinburgh's little known/ little taught Black history. These activities will enhance learning way beyond the traditional curriculum dictated by the SQA and shall encourage independent learning and creativity. This also helps to build confidence in S2 students and help them to develop skills for life

Parent Council decision: Not funded

14. Library – Sara Brown

Resources to support the Carnegie Shadowing Book Group:

- 5 packs of Carnegie shortlisted books at £40 per pack
- 1 pack of Kate Greenaway shortlisted books at £60 per pack

Total = £260

Costs are based on previous prices and include a discount. Each pack contains 1 complete set of shortlisted titles (usually 8 books although this may vary).

This would enable up to 35 pupils and staff to take part.

The Carnegie and Kate Greenaway medals are awarded each year to books that create exceptional reading experiences for children and young people. Every year, thousands of young people take part in the Carnegie Shadowing Programme which supports them to read the shortlisted books, enjoy book related activities and engage with the judging process.

With the kind support of the Parent Council, numerous James Gillespie's High School pupils have benefitted from Carnegie Shadowing. They have read a range of materials, developed critical thinking skills, enjoyed book discussion and worked collaboratively with others in an informal, supportive setting. They have also engaged with our partner reading group at Tynecastle High School.

Additionally, hundreds of high-quality fiction books have been added to the library, therefore benefitting the whole school community.

We would like a new group of pupils to benefit from Carnegie Shadowing in 2024. The project would run from March to June and would involve reading all shortlisted books and participating in weekly meetings to discuss the books and enjoy fun activities. There would also be a special event in June to mark the end of the 2024 programme and celebrate group and individual achievements.

For further information please visit <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/>.

A selection of comments from this year's shadowing group members:

- "Reading the books was a fun experience."
- "It was good because it gave me a chance to read genres of books that I wouldn't have thought about reading in other circumstances, and it expanded the types of books that I read."
- "It gives you a chance to meet other people who are interested in the same things as you and talk to them about it."
- "I enjoyed exploring new genres and authors of books."
- "I gained an awareness of new books."
- "I enjoyed the chance to read lots of books."

Parent Council decision: Fully funded

15. PE/dance - Kerry Jones

Last year we were awarded money for gymnastics leotards, which were great. We purchased 16 and were able to enter into our first competition- which we were very successful in. I am looking for funding for a further 4 leotards so that we can enter an extra team next year (all teams need to have matching attire at competitions). Each leotard is priced at £39.95 (total £158.80).

<https://www.the-zone.co.uk/club-kits-c306/girls-belle-v-neck-sleeveless-shine-gymnastics-leotard-p3591>

Parent Council decision: Fully funded

I would also like to put in a bid for dance costumes as we hope to put on our first post-pandemic dance showcase later this year. We hope to build up a bank of costumes which can be used for years to come and hope to also do some fundraising over the year. I would like to bid for a set of leotards to be used for this purpose. Each leotard is £18.95 and I would like a set of 20 (total £379).

<https://www.the-zone.co.uk/girls-leotards-c40/cadence-sleeveless-nylon-lycra-leotard-p1414>

Extra curricular dance and gymnastics clubs will benefit from this and will provide pupils with new performance opportunities so they can showcase what they have been working on at dance and gymnastics clubs.

Parent Council decision: not funded

If you have any questions about the funding decisions we made, please email the parent council on: jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com

If you're interested in the process of allocating our funds to these staff projects, and would like to have your say, why not join us next year when we meet to review the bids? Look out for news of the application process and a call for volunteers through the parent council channels in the early part of the next school year.