



**Wallington**  
**High School** *For Girls*  
HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

## **SCIENCE LABORATORY REFURBISHMENT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

We are raising money to refurbish four of our science labs so that they become excellent learning environments. We need to raise £130,000 by July 2026 to do the work over that summer break.

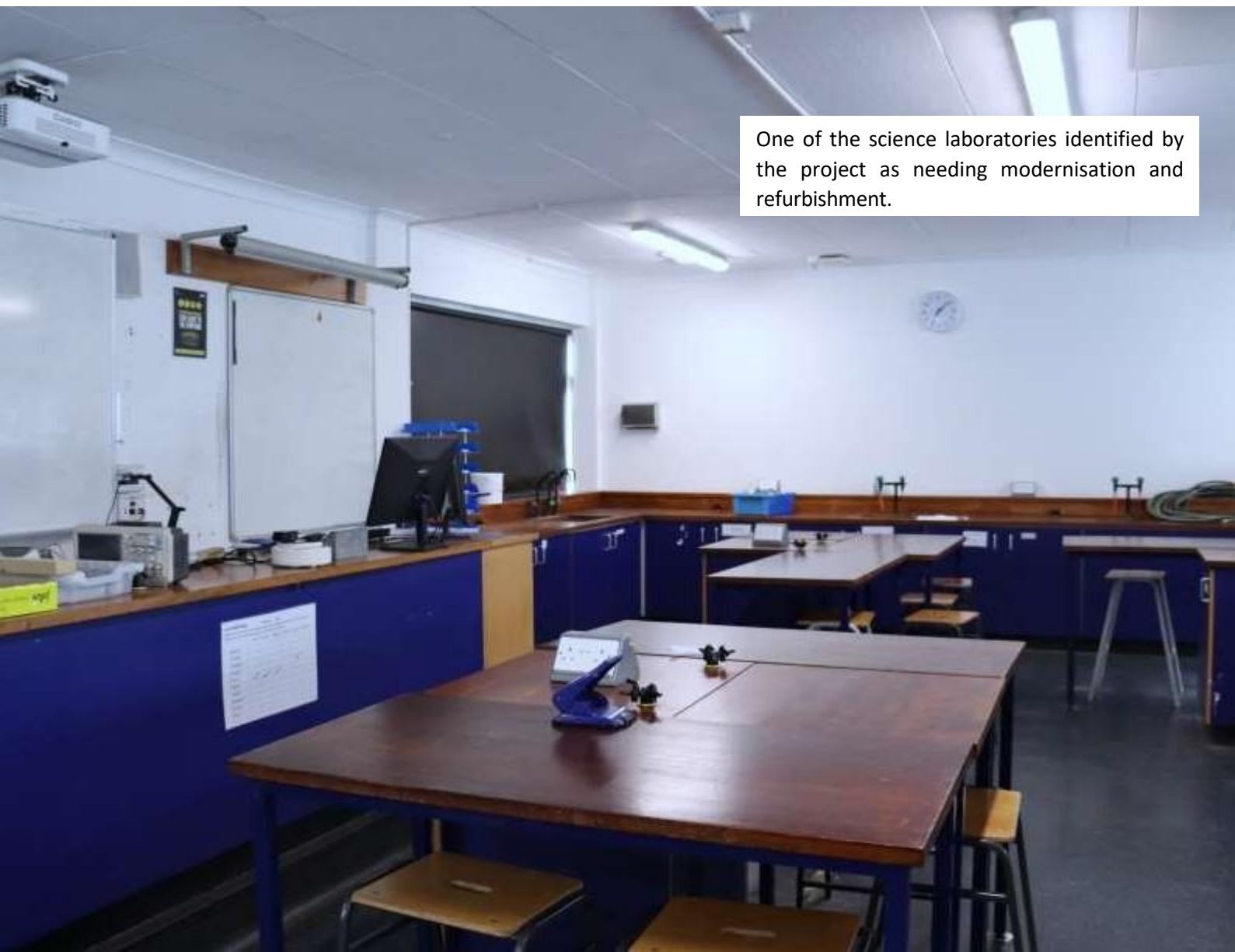
## WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Science subjects are our most popular at A level, with 250 studying A level Biology, 250 studying A level Chemistry and 100 girls studying A level Physics this year. This equates to 71% of the young women in our large Sixth Form opting to study at least one science subject.

While it is great that so many of our students wish to study science, it means demand on our existing facilities is high. This surge in demand has put a strain on our laboratory resources, impacting both the quality of our practical provision and our ability to deliver the curriculum effectively in some of our spaces.

Regrettably, this has resulted in a significant number of lessons each year now being taught outside laboratories.

We rightly believe our students deserve the best immersive, practical education that science is meant to provide, and that our teachers should be able to deliver the curriculum to the best of their ability in laboratories that are fit for purpose.



One of the science laboratories identified by the project as needing modernisation and refurbishment.



One of the science laboratories recently refurbished by the school.

## WHAT ARE WE FUNDRAISING FOR?

To address these challenges, we are hoping to:

Refurbish one of our oldest and lowest quality laboratories, infusing it with inspiration so that it sparks a love of Chemistry in future students. This includes new furniture, equipment, and redecoration.

Reconfigure and refurbish three of our currently unsuitable laboratories, making them better equipped to handle the variety of practical work required in A level Chemistry, GCSE and KS3 science, while also supporting teachers in engaging students in the theoretical aspects of the subject.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR OUR STUDENTS?

Consistent with our curriculum principles we believe it is vitally important that students have the opportunity to enrich their theoretical understanding of science with practical demonstration. Also, in addition to the requirements of public examinations, many universities require students to have deep experience with laboratory work before they are admitted to science programmes. Providing modern science laboratories that are equipped appropriately is crucial as we prepare students for higher education and give them a head start in their future studies.

## WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS SAY?

### **Students in Key Stage 3 have recently commented:**

We are not always able to see teacher demonstrations due to the layout of the rooms. Sometimes we have to rush practical work and are therefore not gaining the full experience, due to faulty gas taps and faulty taps.

**Rania**

In lots of rooms, we can't always see the board/screen from where we sit, meaning we might not understand things as well as we could. Uncomfortable chairs mean we might fidget and might lose attention.

**Arisha**

### **Students in Key Stage 5 have recently commented:**

As a Year 13 student studying Physics and Chemistry A-level, with hopes to study Engineering at university in this coming Autumn, it is understandable that I spend a lot of time in the science labs. My overall opinion of the science labs is that they are adequate but dated. Most of the labs have not been modernised for several decades so have awkward desk layouts, where the teacher cannot be seen from all seats. Painted a dark colour, the rooms can also feel quite enclosed. We are fortunate to have a large department of specialist science teachers, and it would be great to see the learning environment reflect their passion and high-quality lesson plans. Overall, I feel that modernising the labs by making them brighter and better equipped would make the learning experience even more enjoyable and encourage more girls to get involved in STEM.

**Hannah**

I am in Year 13 studying Biology and Chemistry here at Wallington Girls and have applied to study Natural Sciences at University. In my opinion, while the labs are functional, for A Level practicals we sometimes have to swap rooms round which can be disruptive to our lessons. As I have spent a lot of time in the labs throughout Year 12 and 13, I have noticed that in a lot of the labs, the desk layout is quite random with little space between desks. This is a shame,

as a better layout would make it easier to run practicals and improve dialogue between the teacher and students. Additionally, a few of the sinks in some of the labs have drainage problems, with some taps regularly malfunctioning, which means it can be difficult to dispose of any solutions used. I think it's a shame that, while the labs are adequate, they could be improved to allow students to carry out practicals more accurately and follow the teachers' well thought out plans better. Therefore, I believe the labs could use some modernising and renovation to ensure students are able to perform practicals to the best of their ability, and not be hindered by the fact that the labs don't provide the optimum environment to do so. I believe this is especially important for students who wish to study a degree in which they will require lab skills, which could be better developed in better-equipped labs.

**Chloe**

## WHAT DO OUR SCIENCE TEACHERS SAY?

As a school that is meeting the challenges of girls in STEM subjects head on, some of our facilities are currently not fit for purpose. Some of our labs are difficult to navigate and the spaces are increasingly out of date. Some of the teaching rooms are not that well set up so that circulation and monitoring practical work is a potential issue. I currently have a Year 11 class and some of their lessons are taught in non-science rooms which can make engaging students in science more difficult.

**Mr Jamie Parkinson (Assistant Headteacher, Science)**

The position of tables in two of our labs, where students face each other, means that some of the students can't see the board directly, and some have views blocked by fume cupboards or raised columns. There are other rooms like F14 and 15 where the teacher must turn to see all students from the desk, and it is difficult to see all students at once. Although we have found some ways around this, students do still find it difficult to see the board in those rooms.

**Mr Duncan McCausland (Science Teacher)**

The layout of some of the labs is not conducive to the high-quality teaching we like to provide. This can result in situations where some students cannot see what the teacher is modelling, or the teacher cannot see them to maintain full attention. In a school that has so many young women so keen from the outset of their studies to follow a career in STEM, these issues will no doubt at best hinder their ability to progress in science to the highest ability, and at worst be putting them off studying science at all.

**Mr Luke Sanderson (Director of Science)**



## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Each laboratory will cost in the region of £50,000 - £100,000 to refurbish depending on its specific requirements. We have already fundraised c£100k through donations this year and have been successful in our application to the Garfield Weston Foundation for a £26,000 contribution. The Girls' Learning Trust has also committed to funding key elements of the project, and we are working closely with the PFA.

This means we need to fundraise another £130,000 to deliver the project.

## WHAT ABOUT GOVERNMENT FUNDING?

State schools like ours are currently facing significant financial challenges, as we navigate balancing our budget with providing a high-quality education for our students. This has been exacerbated by our ageing site, where we are physically restricted and are unable to grow even in the face of additional demand.

The most significant issue we face is a lack of funding. Over the past decade, all state schools have faced significant cuts to their budgets from the government, with per-pupil funding dropping in real terms. This has had a major impact on the quality of facilities that we are able to provide. Our budget is stretched beyond capacity, as we rely on income from volatile commercial activities to help cover our core running costs. Moderate financial surpluses are now almost impossible, which has put greater pressure on our reserves to deliver capital projects. To put it simply, we are at the point where fundraising – through parental contributions, alumni, local businesses, and by applying to external charitable foundations – is the only way to access sufficient funding for major classroom refurbishments.

We have a great tradition of creating future female leaders in the sciences. However, unless we can invest in upgrading our facilities, this tradition, and the impact it secures, is at risk.

## HOW CAN I DONATE?

As you know, we already operate a School Fund that enables us to raise funds. Donating money to our School Fund couldn't be easier. There are three different ways depending on your preference. All monies received will help us reach our target.

### 1. Bank Transfer

We are also able to receive donations via bank transfer. Please ensure you use the reference code YEAR / TUTOR GROUP (if known) / FULL NAME OF STUDENT to help us to identify it.

- Account Number: 53368060

- Sort Code: 30-98-36

If you choose to donate this way, we are only able to receive Gift Aid if you complete the attached form and return it to the School Office.

## 2. Standing Order

For those who prefer to make a regular donation via standing order, we've attached the forms you'll need to complete to this information pack.

You can return these forms electronically by adding a scanned version of your signature, and then emailing this directly to us: [finance@girlslearningtrust.org](mailto:finance@girlslearningtrust.org)

Or you can print the forms and return them to via the School Office – where we also have hard copies already printed if that's easier.

We really need your help and will be very grateful with anything you can support us with.

Thank you.

Best wishes  
**Tracey O'Brien**  
Headteacher



# STANDING ORDER FORM

Please complete, sign and return the standing order (and gift aid declaration if applicable) to: FAO School Fund, Wallington High School for Girls, Woodcote Road, Wallington SM6 0PH. We will then forward to your bank for processing.

Your full name and initials	
Your full address and postcode	
Name of bank or building society	
Address of bank or building society	
Sort code	-- / -- / --
Account number	-----
Name of account holder	
Payment Reference	YEAR / TUTOR GROUP (if known) / FULL NAME OF STUDENT

Please pay the following to: Lloyds Bank plc, 49/53 High Street, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1DT (Sort Code 30-98-36, Account Number: 53368060) for the credit of the account of Girls Learning Trust T/A Wallington High School for Girls Account.

Amount	£
On the same date	Monthly / Quarterly / Annually
Date commencing	
Date finishing	

Signature	
Date	
Student name	

# GIFT AID DECLARATION FORM

Completing this form boosts your donation by 25%. For example, for an annual donation of £600 this means another £150 is automatically added at no extra cost to yourself.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to Wallington High School for Girls.</p> <p>I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.</p>
Donor title	Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Other
Donor full forenames	
Donor surname	
Donor full address and postcode	

Please notify the charity if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment Tax Return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

Donor signature	
Date	