

Bricks & Stones

The **Festive** Newsletter of Maidstone Grammar School's Alumni and Development Office

Issue 2

December 2017

Thank you very much

We would like to acknowledge the incredible contribution made by our donors towards the future of MGS and, in particular, the development of the new pavilion. Thank you so much for your amazing generosity. You have now raised over £45,000!

Your regular contributions have allowed us to take out a loan, meaning we have been able to begin the construction of the pavilion much sooner than we would otherwise have been able to. We are incredibly grateful. Thank you!



Season's Greetings from
Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund

Christmas Facts and Figures

- 800,000 letters are sent by British children to the Royal Mail's special address 'Santa/Father Christmas, Santa's Grotto, Reindeerland XM4 5HQ15'
- It has been calculated that Santa needs to travel at 650 miles a second and visit 822 homes a second in order to make all the deliveries on Christmas Eve
- You could gift wrap the Island of Jersey with the amount of wrapping paper thrown away each Christmas
- 6m rolls of Sellotape (other sticky tapes are available!) are sold in the UK in the run up to Christmas
- During the Christmas period, nearly 28 Lego sets are sold EVERY SECOND
- About 1,000 people a year are injured by their Christmas tree, usually while fixing stars, lights or other decorations to the higher branches
- Jingle Bells was the first song broadcast from space when Gemini 6 astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra sang it on 16 December 1965.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

The last official white Christmas was in 2010 but what is the Met Office predicting for this year?

"At the start of this period confidence is low, but high pressure is more likely to dominate to the north and west of the UK, which will give us mainly dry and cold conditions, with a mix of sunshine and showers. The showers are likely to fall as sleet or snow even to low levels at times. Temperatures are set to be cold, with widespread frosts overnight. However, from around the middle of December there is an increasing chance of seeing Atlantic weather systems crossing the UK, with an associated increase in rainfall, especially across western areas. This would also bring about generally milder conditions."

Well, that's pretty much covered everything! Hopefully, none of these predicted weather conditions will impact on the construction projects currently going on in School.



- The world's tallest snowman is actually a snow woman! Built in Maine, USA, in 2008, she measured 37.21m (122ft 1in)
- About 9,875 tonnes of sprouts are consumed in the UK in December
- 70% of us carry a gene that makes the brain detect sharp, bitter flavours, resulting in the dislike of Brussels sprouts
- 7 million mince pies are left for Santa by children in the UK on Christmas Eve
- Did you know you can track Santa's sleigh? 9 million visitors from 200 countries track his progress on NORAD's Santa tracker each year. Check it out for yourself at www.noradsanta.org

They've Stayed in Touch!



Old Maidstonians on top of a volcano in Lanzarote

2017 leavers, Henry Strudwick, Joshua Shaw, Daniel Jones and Jamie Reumel, have kept in touch, and are spreading the MGS word from a rather windswept volcano! Henry and Daniel, along with fellow OM Leo Roantree, are off to Australia in January for a couple of months of sunshine, so we look forward to another photo. Thank you for staying in touch and *Bon Voyage!*

Taking note of Isaac Newton, we're trying to build walls **and** bridges, so if you have any news, live or have visited anywhere interesting, please do share your stories and photographs with us.

" We build too many walls and not enough bridges"

Isaac Newton

If you would like to learn more about the pavilion project, our plans for a 3G pitch and how you can help us to achieve our ambitious projects on, please contact the development office.

Donors! Watch out for something  special popping through your letter box!

Thinking of becoming a donor?

If you would like to become one of our wonderful donors and contribute towards our new pavilion, please email or call the alumni and development office. It's a very simple process and every donation really is important; even small amounts build up surprisingly quickly. Each and every penny really does count.

With so many resources being provided by volunteers and MGS (premises, services, IT, etc.), our administrative costs are kept to an absolute minimum. This means that almost every penny you donate will go directly towards our projects. At the moment, it's still almost 98p in every pound!

If you have not yet seen the large plans and elevations, which are available for viewing at School, please do look out for them when you are next visiting us.



Trustees' News

John Hoadly has joined the board of trustees! John has a wealth of experience as a charity trustee and, as one of its governors, an in-depth knowledge of MGS. He has taken over as Chair from Mrs Elizabeth Haggart and also takes on the role of Treasurer. Mark Rolfe, Chairman of Governors, has taken on the role of Secretary, Richard Ratcliffe is responsible for OMS liaison and Mark Tomkins for MGS liaison. You may contact any of the trustees (including Stephen Beck) through the Development Fund.

Caption Competition Win a pair of MGS cufflinks in our Christmas competition.

Just choose one (or more) of the pictures on page 8, and write a pithy and witty caption. The Headmaster's decision is final and the winner will be notified on 8 January 2018. The winning caption will be published in the next issue of 'Bricks & Stones'. Entries close at midnight on 5 January 2018.

Christmas is coming!



OLD MAIDSTONIAN COLOURS

TIES					
Striped Silk	-	-	13.6	Blazer Badges	-
Crested Silk	-	-	17.9	Cuff Links	-
Crested Terrytome	-	-	11.6	Scarves	-
Crested Terrytome/Rayon	-	-	12.6	Car Badges	-
				Wall Shields	-
					42.0
					32.6
					21.0
					25.0
					29.6

Sole Stockists: Sent post free



6 GABRIEL'S HILL, MAIDSTONE — Telephone Maidstone 4431



Item	Description	Price	No.	Cost
MGS umbrella	Large	£22.00		
MGS umbrella	Small	£18.00		
MGS cufflinks		£10.00		
MGS Parker pen		£7.00		
OMS scarf	Wool	£28.00		
OMS scarf	Acrylic	£16.00		
OMS tie	Crested	£7.00		
OMS tie	Striped	£7.00		
OMS blazer badge		£15.00		
Cufflinks, pen and umbrella (lrg)		£35.00		
Cufflinks, pen and umbrella (sml)		£30.00		
Total £				

N.B. Postage and packing will be charged according to number and type of items ordered, and country of delivery

Please return order form to:

The Alumni & Development Fund
Office
Maidstone Grammar School
Barton Road
Maidstone
Kent ME15 7BT

Name & Delivery Address:

Alternatively:

Please deliver my items to my
son/daughter in Class _____
Name _____

Or email to:

developmentoffice@mgs-kent.org.uk

Tel*: _____

* We will only use this to contact you about your order

I will collect my items Yes / No
(No postage & packing!)

*Please make cheques payable to Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund

We'd like to get in touch!

One of the Development Fund's core aims is to build stronger and longer-lasting relationships with parents, students, staff and Old Maidstonians.

"Once a Maidstonian, always a Maidstonian"

Stay in touch!

To help us do this, the Fund will soon be using CRM (customer relationship management) software, which will help us keep in touch with you, enabling us to tailor our communications to suit your needs and interests. For instance, you may not wish to donate at this time but may still be interested in future one-off fundraising campaigns, legacy gifts or invitations to social events. Or you may just want to help or be kept up to date with what's going on! **Please help by filling in the preference form.**

However, some of you will have read in the media about changes to legislation being introduced in May 2018 for anyone handling data and/or fundraising. The changes are intended to give added protection to the unsuspecting public from the unscrupulous practices to which some of us may have fallen victim; the 'small print' you cannot read without a microscope, the use of double or even triple negatives and the ever-present 'opting in' tick we don't even notice or forget to delete!

Rather than go into all the legalese here, it is suffice to say that we need to be open and upfront about what we're doing, how we're going to do it, why we're doing it and who we're doing it with. We need to say what we do and do what we say.

We've tried to make the form as simple as possible, so you can tell us what you do or do not want us to do. If you have any questions, please just ask.

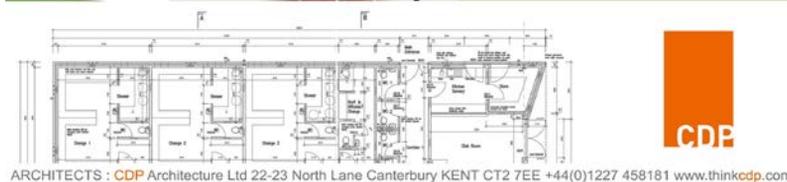
Our promises to you:

- We will not plague you with phone calls, flood your inbox with emails or weigh down your postman with letters;
- Your data will never be shared with anyone else without your prior consent (unless we are required to do so by law);
- No sensitive personal, confidential or information given in confidence will ever be shared (unless we are required to do so by law);
- You may ask to see what data we hold on you at any time;
- Even though you may have given us your details, you may amend or withdraw your consent at any time.

If you have any concerns and would like to speak with us about your data or if you have any questions at all, please do call or email the development office on developmentoffice@mgs-kent.org.uk.

If you would like further information on the General Data Protection Regulation and what it means for you, please visit the Information Commissioner's Office's website.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/>



ARCHITECTS : CDP Architecture Ltd 22-23 North Lane Canterbury KENT CT2 7EE +44(0)1227 458181 www.thinkcdp.com

Preference Form

N.B. Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund will not contact you directly without your consent.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. No. _____

Mobile No. _____

Email _____

• I consent to MGSDF contacting me by:

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Email | Yes / No |
| Letter | Yes / No |
| Telephone | Yes / No |
| Text | Yes / No |

• I would like to receive:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| All your news! | Yes / No |
| Newsletters | Yes / No |
| Invitations to fundraising events | Yes / No |
| Information on specific fundraising campaigns | Yes / No |

• I am also interested in:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Monthly/annual/one-off donations | Yes / No |
| Legacy gifts | Yes / No |
| Fundraising campaigns | Yes / No |
| Offering help | Yes / No |

• This consent lasts:

- _____ years
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Until my (younger/youngest) child leaves MGS | Yes / No |
| My (younger/youngest) child is currently in | Year ____ |
| Until I withdraw my consent | Yes / No |
| May we ask if you would like to renew your consent? | Yes / No |

Signature _____

Date _____

Simply complete and return. Thank you.

How it Works



The pavilion in the snow in 2009

The idea of an MGS Development Fund was conceived by the headmaster, Mark Tomkins, who had seen one working very successfully at his previous school.

Basically, all monies donated and raised will go into a 'pot' that is specifically for use on capital projects. A capital project is just one that is a long-term investment requiring a large sum of money to acquire, develop, improve or maintain a capital asset, such as a building. The first money out of the pot will go towards the new pavilion.

Being a charity allows us to claim Gift Aid on all qualifying gifts, meaning the pot increases by an additional 25p for every £1 you put into it. You will need to fill in a simple form for us but it's as easy as that.

Apart from charitable donations from Maidstone Grammar School's friends and family, we will also be looking at various methods of fundraising and other funding streams to help us achieve our ambitious goals. It is important to remember that every penny really does count. Whether your donation buys just one brick or the whole building, it will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. Please **get in touch** if you would like to help!

"I cannot look at modern buildings without thinking of historical ones"

Kevin McCloud

New Gift Aid declaration form

If you signed the old form, please don't worry! It is still valid. However, things have changed slightly and we do need to advise you that if the amount of Gift Aid claimed by ALL the charities to which you donate exceeds the amount of income or capital gains tax you pay, then you will have to pay the difference to HMRC. For example, if you pay £100 to 10 different charities (and have signed a Gift Aid declaration form for each one), they will each be able to claim £25 in Gift Aid. You must therefore have paid at least £250 in either income or capital gains tax. If you have only paid £200 in tax, you will have to pay £50 to HMRC.

We should also advise you that, although the School's bursary acts on our behalf, Gift Aid is actually being claimed by the Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund and not Maidstone Grammar School, as previously stated on the Gift Aid declaration form.

Ways to Donate

Regular donations

This is the most popular way of making a gift as donations can be made by monthly, quarterly or annually by standing order.

One-off donations

You may prefer to give a lump sum either as a one-off gift or just donate as and when suits you.

Payroll Giving

If your company operates the Payroll Giving scheme, you will be able to donate directly from your earnings or personal pension before income tax is deducted. We do not claim Gift Aid.

For further information, please do visit the following website www.hmrc.gov.uk/businesses/giving/payroll-giving.htm.

You may also like to check if your employer has a matched giving scheme.

Legacy Gifts

Please do remember that it is also possible to remember Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund in your will.

For further information on legacy donations, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will> or speak to your solicitor when making your will.

Other ways to get involved

You may think you have nothing to offer but if you have any skills (professional, technical and/or practical) and would be happy to help, even for just a couple of hours, please let us know. Just contact us on developmentoffice@mgs-kent.org.uk

Gift Aid

As a registered charity (No. 1158329), Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund is able to reclaim basic rate tax on your gift, if you pay either income or capital gains tax.

This means that **for every £1 you donate, we receive £1.25** and if you are a higher-rate taxpayer, you can claim extra relief on your donations.

Just request a Gift Aid declaration form from the alumni and development office.

See www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/gift-aid.htm

Donation and Gift Aid Declaration Form

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Tel _____ Email _____

Please tick as appropriate:

I would like to make a regular monthly/quarterly/annual* donation of £
(*please delete as necessary)

I would like to make a one-off donation of £.....

We will send you Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund's bank details and your unique reference code to enable you to donate through online banking or to set up a standing order. If you wish to donate by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund.

I would like my donation to remain anonymous



Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer and would like you to claim Gift Aid on my donation

No, I am not a UK taxpayer (*We're sorry but we can't claim Gift Aid on your donation*)

Please treat all qualifying gifts of money made today and in the future as Gift Aid donations

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I would like Maidstone Grammar School Development Fund to reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference to HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs).

Please note that 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 HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

I will notify MGS Development Fund if I no longer pay sufficient tax on income or capital gains, or I change my name or home address, or wish to cancel this Gift Aid declaration.

All data provided to the Development Fund is treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act. MGS Development Fund is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. Registration Number: ZA150763. Maidstone Grammar School's bursary deals with the Fund's finances but your information will only be shared with bursary staff to facilitate the aims of the Development Fund. Your contact information will be kept on record but any bank details will be destroyed if you cease to donate. This declaration must be kept for at least 6 years after the end of the financial year in which your last donation was made.

Signed _____ Date _____

..... and a Happy New Year!

Caption Competition

Win a pair of MGS cufflinks!



2



1



3

Please print out as many times as you like and return by post or email, or just email your numbered caption(s) to lois.birrell@mgs-kent.org.uk

Please return captions by midnight, 5 January 2018



4

Name _____ Contact No. _____