

# FUNDRAISING NEWSLETTER



Issue 002

1st December 2025

Welcome back for our second fundraising newsletter of the year. We have some updates on some of our capital works, information about funding, and a spotlight on one of the services paid through donations to the school fund.

## Chemistry Lab Updates

The building of our new Chemistry Lab is in its final stages. The wall dividing the labs has now been torn down, new gas and electrical hook-ups are being installed, and we have a floor. We are now waiting for all of the electric hook-ups to be completed, the installation of equipment like the fume cupboards and the installation of the worktops and other furniture.

We are hoping to set up an official opening in January. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

Thanks again to all those who contributed, and to the PTA for their donation,



## IB Large Programme Uplift

The government's proposal to remove the IB large programme uplift would cut £75,000 of annual funding from the school. We are grateful to our community, especially those who wrote to their local MPs—Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage, received 70 letters from constituents, helping raise the issue's profile.

During half-term, Mrs Wood, Mrs Simpson, and an S7 student attended a Westminster Hall debate with MPs from other state schools offering the IB. The campaign continues, with many MPs committed to supporting our cause.



Mrs Wood  
with Hazel  
(S7)

# IB Large Programme Uplift Continued

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, school leaders (including Mrs Wood), representatives from IBSCA, and Olly Glover MP, visited 10 Downing Street to deliver a letter urging the Prime Minister to reinstate funding for the International Baccalaureate diploma.

We remain firmly committed to offering the IB as our final qualification, which we believe best fits our students and school values.



Mrs Wood  
with Olly  
Glover MP  
presenting  
the letter at  
Downing  
Street.

# Spotlight on...

*We would like to spotlight some of the activities that are funded by your generous donations to the school fund.*



## Forest School



### *What is Forest School?*

Every week, our Year 2 classes get to attend a forest school session. Forest School is an outdoor education model which allows children to lead their own learning in a hands-on way, within a woodland or natural environment. Children learn valuable skills, like team-work, confidence, social skills, risk-taking... the list truly is endless. A trained Forest School leader guides the children in their learning, and sets up enhancements to learn new skills. I joined 2DE last term for one of their sessions to see what they thought about Forest School.



“We have made a gate to let people into the bush. T and I did it together. We have to talk and listen to work together. You can’t go past without a ticket!” Y, 2DE  
(photo above)

“We have found a magic tunnel. It takes you to another land. It can be any place you want. I’m going to space.” -J, 2DE  
(photo left)

# The School Fund

The school fund is an essential source of funding that supports our unique curriculum. It enables us to fund services, activities and support which would otherwise have to be cut. This support enables us to provide students with a good education, rather than a standard one. Without the school fund, we would have to reduce the hours on services like: forest school, ELSA sessions, specialist art and science technicians and more.



## How can I donate?

You can donate directly to the school's bank account or via paypal. Please follow this link for more detail: <https://europaschooluk.org/fundraising/>

## How much should I donate?

Our general guide is to donate £1 a day towards each child's education (so £365 pounds in a year). However, we accept donations of any amount, whether they be lower or higher. Every little bit does help! We can also claim gift aid on donations, which gives donations an uplift.

## What is the difference between the school fund and capital campaign?

Essentially, the school fund pays for value added services that support or enhance our students learning, whilst the capital campaign aims to raise money to improve areas linked to our school site (for example, the chemistry lab, or surface drainage.)

There is a short video explaining the differences between the different pots on the fundraising page of the [school website](#).

## Can I contribute in another way, perhaps by volunteering?

-Absolutely! We are always looking for volunteers to help out in various ways at school. From offering professional services (like land surveying), to volunteer readers, we are always grateful for help we receive from our community.

We are currently trying to build up a volunteer pool, so that we know what skills our community has that may be at our disposal. Please fill [this spreadsheet](#) in if you are interested in volunteering your time/services.

# Europa School's Sycamore Tree

You may have heard the sad news of our Sycamore tree falling over half-term due to strong winds. This tree was a symbol of our school, with many ex-pupils and staff remembering it fondly.

We will be selling the wood to raise money for the school. Announcements on how to purchase wood will come shortly.

In the meantime, we would like to ask for help in preserving the memory of this great tree in two ways.



# **Europa School's Sycamore Tree**

## **Are you a carpenter/woodworker who could donate your time?**

We have large pieces of wood that are yet to be processed, and we think it would be a beautiful idea to have a bench/other commemorative feature made of the wood that can be in the sunken garden. If you feel that is within your skillset, and would like to volunteer, please get in touch with us.



## **Would you be willing to donate a young sycamore tree to replace the one we have lost?**

We are keen to replant a tree that can grow in a similar spot in the sunken garden. As many of our students and staff will attest, the sunken garden just “won’t look right” without a tree in the middle.

We would love to plant another sycamore tree in its place, which will hopefully grow and create more memories for students in the future. If you would be willing to donate a young sycamore tree, please get in touch with [fundraising@europaschool.uk](mailto:fundraising@europaschool.uk). We think it is best to have a young tree, rather than a sapling, to increase its chance of survival.

# Updates from the PTA

## Halloween Cake Sale

A big thank you to everyone who baked or bought a cake at the Halloween cake sale. Together, we raised an incredible £1,300!



## Upcoming Event:



**EUROPA SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS FÊTE**

**SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER  
11:00am - 4:00pm**

Europa School  
Culham, OX14 3DZ

► GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP  
► MAGIC SHOW  
► SANTA'S GROTTO  
► FOOD & DRINK  
► FRENCH CRÊPES  
► GLUHWEIN

► RAFFLE  
► FESTIVE MARKET STALLS  
► ELFRIDGES SHOPPING  
► CAKES  
► FACE PAINTING  
► MUSIC & CAROLS

Book Raffle Tickets: [QR code](#) Book Activities: [QR code](#)

Painted Artwork by Emily Downs S5

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