

The Sternians Trust Fund

Registered Charity: 1052004

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2024

The Sternians Trust Fund
Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Contents	Pages
Contents	2
Legal and Administrative	3
Report of the Trustees	4
Independent Examiner's Report	7
<u>Annual Accounts</u>	
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Accounts	10 - 13

Legal and Administrative

Registered charity number 1052004

Registered address Lord Wandsworth College
Long Sutton
Hook
Hampshire
RG25 1TB

Trustees Paul Richings (Chairman)
Alvin Boateng
James Brewin (Hon. Secretary)
Ben Forman (Hon. Treasurer)
Richard Janaway
Shelley Lawson
Richard Saunders
Carly Skillett

Independent Examiner Chris Bellairs

Bankers Lloyds Bank
174 Fleet Road
Fleet
Hampshire
GU51 4DD

Report of the Trustees

Headlines

- Assistance was given to seven pupils, with grants totalling £26,500
- Further donation of £17,000 to the Lord Wandsworth Foundation
- Individual donations received, including tax recovery, were almost £4,000
- Investment income was £43,800 against £41,500 in 2023
- Total assets increased from £1,040,000 to £1,061,000

The Trust Fund

The primary objective of the Fund is to help to ensure that children who are being educated at Lord Wandsworth College are not forced to leave following an adverse change in financial circumstances. That is particularly when they are in, or about to enter, the examination years of the fifth and sixth forms. Grants for fees are made out of the income earned from the Fund's investments, while the capital is built up through donations and legacies.

The Trust Fund was established as 'The Old Sternians Charity Fund' by a Trust Deed dated 7th March 1961. In January 1966, the Fund was established as a separate charity, having previously been part of the Lord Wandsworth charity. The name was changed to 'The Sternians Trust Fund' in 1995.

The Fund started with the transfer of £223 from the 'Scholarship Fund', which itself had been set up from the balance remaining on the 'War Memorial Fund', created after the 1939-45 War. The Fund's assets grew slowly, to a little less than £1,000 by 1969 and to over £5,000 in 1977. The very limited investment income in the early days was applied in making small grants for language courses, field trips, sportswear and music lessons and instruments. Since 1999, by which time the value of the Fund had grown to over £150,000, grants have been almost entirely towards basic school fees, and over that period exceed £450,000.

The Trustees

The current trustees are all former pupils at the College. Carly Skillett and Alvin Boateng, who left the College in 2008 and 2019 respectively, were both appointed during the prior year. Of the other trustees, Richard Janaway, who is a Governor of the College, became a Trustee in 1998; Paul Richings (Chairman) in 2007; Richard Saunders in 2009, and Ben Forman (Honorary Treasurer) in 2015, after 12 years as Independent Examiner. James Brewin and Shelley Lawson were both appointed as trustees in 2021, James having served as Honorary Secretary of the Trust Fund since 2017, and Shelley being both a Sternian and current parent. Chris Bellairs was appointed Independent Examiner at the beginning of 2016; he was also a pupil at the College.

Grants

2024 saw assistance provided to seven pupils, compared to eight in 2023. Total grants awarded to these pupils of £26,500 were slightly higher than individual grants of £22,500 in the prior year. Of the seven beneficiaries during the year, six remained at the College at the year end. One of those received a one-off grant during the year, and the trustees have committed an additional £16,000 to support the remaining five pupils in 2025. The Trustees work with the College to identify the widest possible range of eligible beneficiaries. Grants are funded out of investment income, with donations and legacies used to build up the capital of the Fund, which helps to preserve the Trust Fund's capacity to provide support as school fees rise over time. Provided that the Headmaster and Bursar give their support and have agreed that assistance is merited, the size of a grant is determined after examination of the financial information that applicants provide. Grants are for a proportion of the fees. In almost all cases, a grant is accepted when offered and the pupil continues at the College; where that does not happen, the level of grant is rarely, by itself, the decisive factor.

A number of the pupils supported during the year and as at the date of this report are Foundationers, where the Trust Fund has stepped in to fill the gap left by other charities whose previous support did not extend beyond the 5th form.

As previously mentioned, the trustees' policy is to invest donations to produce a rising income, ensuring that the Trust Fund's grant-making capacity keeps pace with increasing school fees. The trustees are mindful of the need to ensure that investment income is applied as fully as possible towards grants. Given the recently announced changes to the VAT treatment of school fees the trustees expect there will be a continuing pipeline of applications. However, during 2024 as in 2023 there were insufficient applications received that met the trustees' grant-making criteria to account for all of the available investment income. The trustees have therefore agreed to make a grant of £17,000, equivalent to the surplus investment income, to the Lord Wandsworth Foundation, thereby ensuring that the full amount of the year's income is purposefully deployed. This follows the first grant of this type, for £19,000, made during the prior year.

Legacies & Donations

Legacies have been a major factor behind the rapid growth of the Trust Fund's resources over recent years, contributing over £275,000 since 2006. A £500 bequest was received during the year (2023: nil).

In addition to legacy income, the growth of the Trust Fund has been founded on the cumulative impact of regular donations from a small number of Sternians over many years. Those donations were almost £4,000 in 2024.

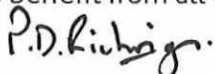
General Finance

Following the prior year's unrealised gain of £31,600 in the value of the Fund's assets, 2024 saw a further gain, with the investments benefitting from a £15,600 increase in value. The total assets of the Trust Fund increased during the year from £1,040,000 to £1,061,000. The investment of donations and legacy income over time has resulted in an ongoing increase in available income, which rose slightly to £43,800 in 2024 (2023: £41,500).

The Trust Fund's capital is invested in funds designed specifically for charities. The investments are mainly (85% by value) in wider range assets, primarily equities but also some real estate, producing an income yield of 4.3%. Cumulatively, gains in market value, all in the equity investments, have amounted to over £300,000. The Trustees are in principle prepared for grants to exceed investment income by up to £10,000 on a rolling three-year basis if there are enough applications with sufficient merit.

Outlook

Although there are currently a number of sources of economic uncertainty, the application of VAT to school fees may have a significant impact on parental circumstances in the near-term. The Trust Fund will have the capacity to assist where a need arises, always following careful review of applicants' circumstances and after consultation with the College. The trustees as ever are grateful to the donors whose support makes this possible, allowing the pupils supported by the Trust Fund to continue to benefit from all that the College has to offer.



Paul Richings
Chairman of the Trustees
14 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Sternians Trust Fund

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Trust Fund for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust Fund as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Chris Bellairs FCA

14 March 2025

Old Cottage, Shoreham, Kent

Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Income from donations and legacies	4	4,337	4,678
Income from investments	5	43,820	41,522
Total income		48,157	46,200
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	43,500	41,500
Other expenditure	7	82	156
Total expenditure		43,582	41,656
Net income		4,575	4,544
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investment assets		15,622	31,629
Net movement in funds		20,197	36,173
Fund balance brought forward at 1 January		1,040,427	1,004,254
Fund balance carried forward 31 December		1,060,624	1,040,427

All amounts derive from continuing activities.

Notes 1 to 9 form part of these Annual Accounts.

Balance Sheet

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	8	1,027,736	1,012,114
Current assets			
Current account		49,088	47,227
Deposit account		7	7
Income tax recoverable		793	79
Total current assets		49,888	47,313
Current liabilities			
Accrued grants	6	(17,000)	(19,000)
Total current liabilities		(17,000)	(19,000)
Net current assets		32,888	28,313
Total net assets	9	1,060,624	1,040,427
Represented by:			
Unrestricted general purpose fund		1,060,624	1,040,427
Total funds at 31 December		1,060,624	1,040,427

Notes 1 to 9 form part of these Annual Accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 14 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


.....

P. D. Richings (Chairman)


.....

B. R. Forman (Hon. Treasurer)

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

- (i) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ('FRS 102') and the Charities Act 2011.
- (ii) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except that investments are carried at the closing mid-market value at the Balance Sheet date. Any gain or loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.
- (iii) Donations are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when received, together with any associated tax credit. Investment income is recognised when received.
- (iv) Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. In particular, grants provided to assist in the payment of school fees are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they become due at the start of each term.

2. Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Trust Fund's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year.

The Trustees confirm that suitable accounting policies have been used and applied consistently and reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made in the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The Trustees also confirm that applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed and that the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust Fund and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The major risks to which the Trust Fund is exposed are kept under review and are taken into account when decisions are made concerning grants. The Trustees have set limits on the extent to which grants may exceed investment income over a rolling three year period.

The Trustees are mindful of the need for the Trust Fund to conform to the requirement for Charities to demonstrate public benefit and are satisfied that the Trust Fund conforms thereto.

3. Statement of investment policy

The Trustees' investment policy is to invest fully all funds not required in addition to investment income to meet commitments for grants in the near term (normally up to three years ahead), while retaining funds on deposit when market conditions make a delay in investing advisable. Investments are in unit trusts for charities and are divided between equities and property ('wider range investments') and fixed interest stocks ('narrower range investments') in proportions agreed by the Trustees and reviewed at their meetings.

The Trust Deed does not place restrictions on the use of funds and all funds are designated as unrestricted.

More than one unit trust manager is used. Currently the managers used are BlackRock (BLK Charities UK Bond Fund and BLK Charities Equity Fund), M&G (Charibond and Charifund) and CCLA (COIF Charities Investment Fund).

Cash awaiting investment or expected to be required for grants in the near term is held in the current account.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Individual donations (including tax recoverable)	3,837	4,678
Legacies	500	-
	<u>4,337</u>	<u>4,678</u>

5. Income from investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Received from narrower range investments	6,606	5,777
Received from wider range investments	37,214	35,745
	<u>43,820</u>	<u>41,522</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>43,500</u>	<u>41,500</u>

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises grants made for school fees and other associated costs, either directly or via amounts donated to the Lord Wandsworth College Foundation.

The Trust Fund supported seven pupils during 2024 (2023: eight) in respect of whom £26,500 (2023: £22,500) was charged to the Statement of Financial Activities during the year. The Trust Fund had committed support to five pupils (2023: six) at the end of 2024, for whom further grants totalling £16,000 (2023: £22,500) are committed to be paid during 2025.

In addition, a further grant of £17,000 (2023: £19,000) for termly fees and other associated costs was committed to the Lord Wandsworth College Foundation during the year. This amount was accrued at 31 December 2024.

7. Other expenditure

	2024 £	2023 £
Trustees' expenses	<u>82</u>	<u>156</u>
	<u>82</u>	<u>156</u>

Trustees' expenses represent travel and other costs of one Trustee (2023: two). The Trustees make a donation to the Trust Fund equal to the expenses claimed, such that no payments were made to them in respect of this amount.

Neither the Trustees and the Independent Examiner, nor any person connected with them, have received any remuneration.

The Trust Fund has no employees and so incurs no staff costs.

8. Investments

	31 December 2024			31 December 2023		
	Holding	Cost	Market value	Holding	Cost	Market value
BLK Charities UK Bond	34,895	62,529	49,473	34,895	62,529	51,645
M&G Charibond	92,089	117,947	99,364	92,089	117,947	102,993
Narrower Range		180,476	148,837		180,476	154,638
BLK Charities UK Equity	18,674	72,162	139,834	18,674	72,162	135,947
M&G Charifund	24,764	252,807	364,619	24,764	252,807	355,355
COIF investment fund	18,452	234,897	374,446	18,452	234,897	366,174
Wider Range		559,866	878,899		559,866	857,476
Total Investments		740,342	1,027,736		740,342	1,012,114

Movement in market value

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	1,012,114	935,485
Additions	-	45,000
Unrealised gain on revaluation	15,622	31,629
Market value at 31 December	1,027,736	1,012,114
Historic cost at 31 December	740,342	740,342

9. Summary of net assets

	2024	2023
	£	£
Investments	1,027,736	1,012,114
Net current assets	32,888	28,313
Net assets	1,060,624	1,040,427