

THE FRIENDS OF THE CHERWELL SCHOOL OXFORD

Registered Charity 1183779

friendsofcherwell.org

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2024

The trustees present their Report for the year 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024. This Report should be read in conjunction with the attached financial statements for the same period.

Legal status

The charity was established by a Constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('Foundation' model constitution) and entered on the Register of Charities by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 7 June 2019 with the registered number 1183779.

Registered address

Pennwood House
Pound Lane
Cassington
Oxfordshire
OX29 4BN

Bank

The Co-operative Bank plc
PO Box 250
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiner

Camerons Accountancy Consultants Ltd
9 Worton Park
Cassington
Oxfordshire
OX29 4SX

Objects and activities

The objects of the charity are: To advance the education of the students at The Cherwell School Oxford by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education and educational wellbeing at the school.

The charity raises funds through donations and general fundraising activities in order to provide grants to The Cherwell School Oxford to help provide facilities for education and educational wellbeing at the school in all areas of the curriculum, including arts, sciences and sports.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed and managed by its trustees in accordance with its Constitution. The trustees met four times during the year with an overall attendance level of over 90%. There are no committees nor sub-committees and in the event of decisions being required between meetings all trustees are consulted and involved by group email.

Five trustees served throughout the year:

Jo Harris
John Hemingway - Chair
Niall McWilliams
Alex Thomas - Secretary
Lucy Wells

During the year Jo Harris retired after three years service and was reappointed as a trustee for a further three year period on 13 March 2024.

On 28 April 2024 one trustee, Jennifer Ingham, resigned due to pressure from other commitments. She was warmly thanked for her four years of service.

Volunteers

The trustees would like to thank the many volunteers at Cherwell School who continue to assist with advice, support and fundraising initiatives, including parents and carers, staff members, and especially Headteacher Chris Price, Operations Manager Hazel Moss, and Development Manager Claire Starkey. In addition, we would like to thank independent professional Amy Hemingway for her generous gift-in-kind of time in maintaining our website and providing promotional design services.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

This was the fifth year since our launch in 2019, and during the year we passed the major milestone of generating our first quarter of a million pounds in cumulative income since we started. We produced another very creditable financial result this year, and owe massive thanks to all our supporters and donors who made this possible.

Year 1	£10,999
Year 2	£93,337
Year 3	£60,995
Year 4	£44,798
Year 5	£55,368
TOTAL	£265,497

Throughout the year we continued to build our database of Friends and our reputation amongst Cherwell's parents, staff, alumni and the wider community. The level of awareness of The Friends, and the impact we are making, continued to grow.

To end the academic year with a small but significant personal thank you to our donors, the Cherwell School Music Department organised "*An Evening of Music for Friends of Cherwell*" on 23 July 2024. All our donors were invited, and a substantial number attended and enjoyed performances from the school's talented musicians with refreshments served outside on a very memorable summer evening.

The PTA was also able to hold some successful social events for parents, students and staff during the year which raised funds for The Friends. In the main however, our fundraising was still largely dependent on electronic methods, and it continues to be a major advantage that our software enables us to communicate with our donors and potential donors on a regular basis. Many donors make a regular monthly gift to our annual fund, which provides a bedrock of funding that helps us to plan for the future with greater certainty, and their numbers continued to grow during the year. Every donation whether small or large, monthly or one-off, makes a huge difference in helping us to pay for projects and facilities that simply cannot be funded within the school's budget.

We also raise funds from other grant awarding bodies and commercial organisations. This year we owe special thanks to the trustees of the Doris Field Charitable Trust for their generous donation of £1,000 to our Friends' annual fund to help pay for more outdoor seating and tables, to keep on improving facilities for student wellbeing. In addition to our own fundraising income, our team assisted the school to win grants directly. This resulted in a substantial grant from Lucy Group to the school of £10,000 to provide new laser cutters for DT students; and a grant from the Football Foundation of £4,152 to support our own funds to provide sets of portable goalposts on South Site. It was especially rewarding too to applaud the success of the school's students who successfully applied for a grant from a Balliol College environmental fund, and the school was awarded £5,000 to support the environmental garden project on South Site. In total, almost £20,000 went directly to the school in grants from other bodies, and we thank them all for their very generous support.

During the year we gave grants to the school of £54,650 (*last year £14,650*), which took our overall total of grants so far awarded to Cherwell to some £160,000. In addition we committed over £32,000 to support ongoing projects which the school should complete during our next financial year. All our grants to the school are paid on the successful

completion of projects that fund improvements to benefit the education and wellbeing of its students.

We maximise the impact of our grants by helping to meet a wide range of needs across the school on both sites and in all areas of the curriculum. Examples of experiences we funded this year included: professional coaching for performance workshops (choirs, stage combat, Samba drumming); trophies for all school sports; and through our dedicated Student Support Fund, supporting any students needing help not available elsewhere for activities such as student trips or the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Equipment and facilities that were fully or co-funded by The Friends during the year included: quality music stands for performing arts students, vinyl cutter for DT students, sets of portable goalposts for all users, Sports Leaders kits, outdoor benches and picnic tables, ongoing improvements to toilet facilities, new technology for A-V systems in the South Site hall and outdoors. We were also delighted to help the major South Site Ecology Garden get off the ground by paying for the vital fencing to create the defined space to enable the project to start.

Looking Ahead - The Masterplan Vision

Cherwell School has significant infrastructure shortfalls, and the Masterplan involves replacing its aged single storey buildings with modern multi-storey facilities, releasing land for green space recreational purposes and establishing a campus environment. In addition, the new facilities will meet the City's zero emissions targets by employing a number of energy saving technologies and building techniques. The proposed development is a modular design to enable a phased building approach that allows continual operation of the school during improvements.

Phase 1 of the Masterplan was the design and construction of the new all-weather sports pitch, which was completed five years ago and has been a huge success. It not only serves the needs of the school's sports but also generates a vital stream of income for the school through lettings every week to external users.

Phase 2 comprises the design and construction of a large multi-purpose hall that will support the school's sports curriculum in addition to providing an essential large meeting space to accommodate examinations, performing arts, exhibitions and community needs for a large flexible space. During the year we provided grants to the school to enable TSH Architects to continue with development of the designs for this new large multi-purpose hall and we also began discussions with major contractors Morgan Sindall who offered to undertake a costing exercise free of charge to provide a realistic estimate for the budget needed to build it.

The proposed hall is the next key step in the school's overall Masterplan Vision. Later phases of the Masterplan include modifications to the Marston Ferry Road crossing to significantly improve road safety, and the addition of new buildings to accommodate classrooms, language suite, science laboratories, arts and performance studios, appropriate welfare facilities and more.

OUR FINANCES

Our Income

Our total income for the year was just under £55,400 (*last year £44,800*). Donations from our Friends made up the majority of this at just over £41,500 (*last year £32,500*). One hundred per cent of every donation is in turn granted to the school to fund agreed projects to benefit the education of its students.

Other sources of income included PTA events that generated a donation to The Friends of just over £2,200 (*last year £2,400*). Our ongoing account with the Easyfundraising online shopping scheme generated £1,125 (*last year £2,100*, including income from the since discontinued Amazon scheme). The long term investment bond in the Low Carbon Hub that we inherited from the former charitable Cherwell School PTA generated £180 in interest. This investment produces a small annual income plus a steady pay-back of the initial capital over a 25 year period. We run a very efficient system for reclaiming Gift Aid on eligible donations and this generated over £10,300 (*last year £7,600*) in additional income that more than covered all our operating costs.

Our Operating Costs

Day-to-day operation of the charity depends totally on volunteer time and resources. We have no paid staff, no premises, no equipment. We operate a website that we pay to host, but all the design and maintenance is provided free of charge by an independent professional volunteer. Our software is managed by two trustees, one of whom is a professional fundraiser with another charitable organisation. Our accounts are managed by one of the trustees, and all our trustees give their time and expertise in various ways to support the charity's operations. Our Independent Examiner also very kindly provides her professional services without charge.

Apart from hosting the website and producing occasional promotional materials, our main costs are the cloud-based fundraising software that we use and the card processing fees we pay for online donations. Our total operating costs for the year were £8,025 (*last year £6,725*). We are committed to the principle that all our operating costs should be covered without charge to donations, and again this year we successfully achieved this.

Balance sheet movements

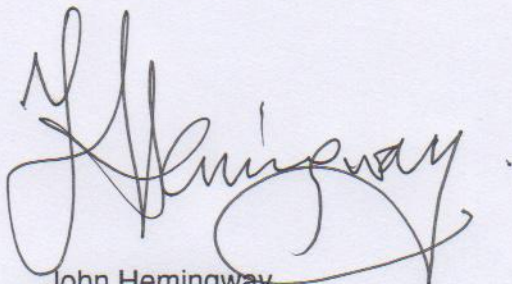
During the year we received a small repayment of capital of £201 (*last year £193*) on the long term investment in the Low Carbon Hub.

Total grants of £54,650 were paid to the school during the year. Having played catch-up on awarding grants for projects that were committed to last year but only completed this year, our finances at the end of the year showed a deficit of £7,300 (*surplus last year £20,490*), but our finances are still in a very healthy position to provide grants in the year ahead. At the close of the year our total funds stood at £59,530 (*last year £66,832*).

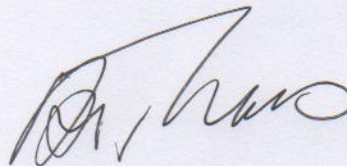
With continued thanks to all our Friends and supporters.

Approved by the trustees on 28 March 2025

Signed on behalf of the trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hemingway', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

John Hemingway
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Thomas', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Thomas
Secretary

Date: 28 March 2025

Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements and for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose the financial position of the Charity.

The Friends of the Cherwell School Oxford

Balance Sheet 31 July 2024

	notes	31 July 2024	31 July 2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank and cash		55,604	62,716
Debtor		10	-
Investment Low Carbon Hub		3,915	4,116
Total Assets		<u>59,529</u>	<u>66,832</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade creditors	3	-	-
Total Funds		<u>59,529</u>	<u>66,832</u>
Reserves			
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Funds Schools			
Total Restricted Funds			-
Unrestricted brought forward		66,832	46,341
Surplus for year		-	7,303
Total Reserves		<u>59,529</u>	<u>66,832</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the accounting period ended 31 July 2024

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of the financial statements for the period ended 31 July 2024 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

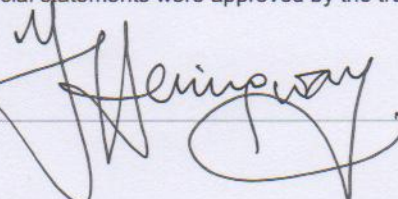
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and were signed by:

Trustee

 28/03/2025

The Friends of the Cherwell School Oxford

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2024

	2024	2023	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
		£	£
Notes			
Income			
Income from activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects:			
Fundraising/donations	41,529	34,902	-
Grants	2,208	-	-
Other income Gift Aid	10,326	7,633	-
Online shopping schemes	1,125	2,075	-
Investment bond interest	180	188	-
Total Income available for charitable application	<u>55,368</u>	<u>44,798</u>	-
Resources Expended - Charitable expenditure			
Cost of activities in furtherance of the charities objectives	2 62,671	24,307	-
Managing and administering the charity		-	-
Total Resources Expended	<u>62,671</u>	<u>24,307</u>	-
Extraordinary Costs			
Net movement in funds	<u>(7,303)</u>	<u>20,491</u>	-

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005), applicable accounting standards and the Charities Act 2011. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.2 Funds structure

Funds held by the charity are either

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. All restricted funds are represented by net current assets.

1.3 Incoming Resources

Donations and grants

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.

When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.

When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure included in the direct charitable expenditure is that relating to the provision of facilities for the education and educational wellbeing of students at Cherwell School and expenses relating to that provision. Fundraising expenditure is that expenditure directly incurred related to the Charity's fundraising activities. All other expenses relate to managing and administering the charity.

2 Management and Administration of the Charity

2024 2023

Raiser's Edge NXT	6,732	5,887
Website and promotion	638	259
Grants made	54,647	14,659
Development costs	-	2,923
Bank charges	654	579
	<u>62,671</u>	<u>24,307</u>

3 Creditors

2024 2023

Loans	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Friends of the Cherwell School Oxford

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of Friends of Cherwell School

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act")

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination. I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act")

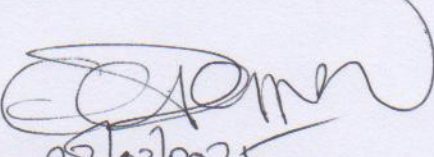
In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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;
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102)

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.


Dated 28/03/2025

Ellen O'Donnell FCA
Camerons Accountancy Consultants Ltd
9 Worton Park
Cassington
Oxford
OX29 4SX