

THE FRIENDS OF THE CHERWELL SCHOOL OXFORD

Registered Charity 1183779

friendsofcherwell.org

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2025

The trustees present their Report for the year 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025. 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 (retired and re-appointed for a further three years as of 7 June 2025)

Alex Thomas - Secretary

Lucy Wells (retired and re-appointed for a further three years as of 4 December 2024)

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, carers and staff members.

We especially thank Headteacher Chris Price, Operations Manager Hazel Moss, and Development Manager Claire Starkey for the key part they each play in all the work of The Friends.

We also thank independent professional Amy Hemingway for her generous gift-in-kind in maintaining our website.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

This was the sixth year since our launch and we delivered another very strong performance in supporting the school. We owe massive thanks to all our supporters and donors who made this possible.

During the year we gave grants to the school of £36,300 (*last year £54,650*). In addition we committed a further £40,000 (*last year £32,000*) to support ongoing projects which the school should complete during the coming 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.

Examples of Our Impact

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 African and Samba drumming workshops; trophies for all school sports; expenses for the Mathematics Olympiad for Girls and the Maths Team Challenge; and the two-day Explorer Dome inflatable planetarium for Year 7 students to learn more about the planets, constellations and galaxies for their science and space studies.

Equipment and facilities that we funded included: various ongoing improvements to toilet facilities; 30 additional Chromebooks plus charging trolley for the Sixth Form; Sports Leaders kits across the school; binoculars for the eco students; and new A-V technology and display screens on South Site.

Through our dedicated Student Support Fund we also provided financial help for any students needing support not available from any other source, especially for activities such as the student ski trip.

We also continued to fund resources for student mental health and wellbeing through an expanded partnership with AT The Bus, providing invaluable art therapy to students who benefit from small group sessions outside of the classroom. The school is now working in partnership with AT The Bus as part of the 'Access Cherwell' programme which supports students requiring additional pastoral or academic interventions. AT The Bus have created a new studio space in the school used by these students every week as part of their timetable.

The Eco Garden

One of the major highlights of the year was the official opening of the south site Ecology Garden. We hosted a wonderful event on a beautiful sunny evening in June, welcoming Friends, parents, and students to explore this garden of learning and wellbeing. The students did a first class job leading tours and sharing the activities they carry out in their nature studies. It was clear to see the positive impact the garden is already having, quickly becoming a valuable place for learning and enjoyment.

While funding from the Friends kickstarted this project, we are incredibly grateful to the many other partners and funders who helped us create such a valuable space at the heart of the school. Wherever possible we help to raise funds from other grant awarding bodies

and commercial organisations that usually go directly to the school. In particular on this project this year the school received a grant of £4,380 from the Summertown & St Margaret's Forum to help provide materials for the raised beds and pergola; a grant of £2,000 from the Wytham Woods Pollinators Programme to help fund the planting of heritage fruit trees in the orchard; and a grant of £500 to fund small tools and sundries for the garden from Oxford City Council through Councillor Katherine Miles from her Ward Member budget. The school also received a donation from the Woodland Trust of 400 hedge saplings.

In addition the garden project received very substantial gift-in-kind support from major construction company Morgan Sindall, who provided without charge the manpower and machinery to dig and create the pond and to build the raised beds and pergola. In total this very generous support saved the project several thousand pounds.

In total, the grants and gifts-in-kind that went directly to the school from other bodies had a combined value of around £17,000, and we thank them all for their very generous support.

Other activities

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, including the annual Winter Festival and the sale of pre-owned PE kit which is donated by parents and carers.

During the year The Friends also received a substantial donation from the Perryman family to manage on behalf of the school. The donation was made in order to create an annual art prize in memory of former student and successful artist Alison Perryman, a student during the 1980s who sadly passed away too soon. This donation will enable the school to run an annual event showcasing work particularly from Key Stage 3 students across Art and DT.

In addition during the year the school submitted a grant application to the Wolfson Foundation for approximately £90,000 to support the development of DT provision within the school. A decision on this application is likely to be made during the next school year.

Moving forward with the River Learning Trust

Throughout the year we continued to build our database of Friends and to grow our reputation amongst Cherwell's parents, staff, alumni and the wider community. The success we have been achieving during the last six years has also attracted the attention of the executive leadership team at the River Learning Trust (RLT), the multi-academy trust of which Cherwell forms one part. As a result, during the year RLT opened discussions with us to consider whether and how the model we have created could be rolled out by them to all 30 schools in the Trust.

In the main our fundraising has been dependent on electronic methods and professional fundraising software that enables us to communicate with our donors and potential donors on a regular basis and to manage the relationships. 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 net total 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.

After discussions, the leadership team at RLT decided to invest in similar fundraising software which they would provide free of charge to all the schools in the Trust, supported centrally by RLT. The Friends trustees decided that it might be beneficial also for Friends of Cherwell to adopt the RLT system and effectively appoint RLT as our agent to handle our database and online fundraising processes, which would also involve the school's business and development team much more directly in the management of the database. RLT anticipated that their system would become operational during our next financial year, and discussions continued at the year end. One major consequence if we went ahead with RLT would also be to eliminate the vast bulk of our operating costs, potentially saving several thousand pounds a year.

The key reason why we set up The Friends in 2019 was to help Cherwell School start to build its own professional fundraising capability. This new development with RLT could further help us to achieve this objective, building on the successful appointment by the school in January 2023 of Cherwell's first Development Manager position, made feasible by our work. We look forward very much to continuing to help the school to build that fundraising capability.

Looking Ahead - The Masterplan Vision

Throughout the year we continued our endeavours to help Cherwell School overcome its significant infrastructure shortfalls, including exploratory discussions with local authorities, the school's local MP and also central government. The Masterplan Vision involves replacing Cherwell's 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 Oxford 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 all-weather sports pitch that was completed six 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 and provide an essential large flexible meeting space for examinations, performing arts, exhibitions and potential community needs. During the year major construction company Morgan Sindall carried out a costing exercise free of charge to provide a realistic estimate of the budget needed to build it, which is likely to be some £10.4 million.

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 endeavours to make it happen will continue during the year ahead.

OUR FINANCES

Our Income

Our total income for the year was some £63,800 (*last year £55,400*). Donations from our Friends made up the majority of this at over £49,300 (*last year £41,500*). In particular we owe a massive thank you to everyone who supported our Chromebook Appeal at the end of the school year in July. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the response, raising over £9,000 in just a few weeks. This generosity means the school can repair around 30 current devices and buy an additional 30 new machines and licences, making a huge difference for students in the coming school year ahead.

Other sources of income included PTA events that generated a donation to The Friends of £1,800 (*last year £2,200*). Our ongoing account with the Easyfundraising online shopping scheme generated £780 (*last year £1,125*), and the long term investment bond in the Low Carbon Hub (inherited from the former charitable Cherwell School PTA) generated some £170 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 £9,380 (*last year £10,300*) in additional income that more than covered all our operating costs.

The special donation to fund the annual Perryman Awards is a ring-fenced separate fund within the Friends and is anticipated to provide annual prizes for at least ten years.

Our cumulative income since we started is:

Year 1	£10,999
Year 2	£93,337
Year 3	£60,995
Year 4	£44,798
Year 5	£55,368
Year 6	£63,798
TOTAL	£329,295

Together with grants and gifts-in-kind worth a cumulative total of some £36,150 that have gone directly to the school over the last two years, that takes the combined total to £365,445.

Our Expenditure

Total grants of £36,300 (*last year £54,650*) were paid to the school during the year. 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 £8,144 (*last year £8,025*). 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. As noted above, if the proposed new system with RLT goes ahead then most of these costs should effectively disappear altogether.

Balance sheet movements

During the year we received a small repayment of capital of £232 (*last year £201*) on the long term investment in the Low Carbon Hub.

Our finances at the end of the year showed a surplus of just over £17,000 (*deficit last year £7,300*), keeping us in a very healthy position to provide grants to the school in the year ahead. At the close of the year our total funds stood at £78,890 (*last year £59,530*).

With continued thanks to all our Friends and supporters.

Approved by the trustees on 04 March 2026

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: 04 March 2026

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 2025

	notes	31 July 2025	31 July 2024
			£ £
Fixed Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank and cash		75,210	55,604
Debtor			10
Investment Low Carbon Hub		3,683	3,915
Total Assets		78,893	59,529
Current Liabilities			
Trade creditors	3	-	-
Total Funds		78,893	59,529
Reserves			
Restricted Funds			
Perryman Fund		2326	0
Total Restricted Funds			
Unrestricted brought forward		59,529	66,832
Surplus for year		17,038	7,303
Total Reserves		78,893	59,529

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the accounting period ended 31 July 2025

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of the financial statements for the period ended 31 July 2025 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

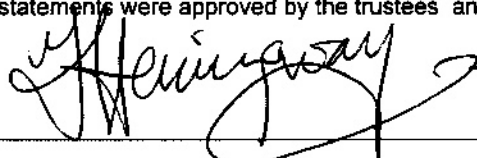
The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- 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

 04/03/2026

The Friends of the Cherwell School Oxford

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 July 2025

		2025	2024	
			Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
			£	£
	Notes			
Income				
Income from activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects:				
Fundraising/donations		49,342	41,529	-
PTA events net surplus		1,798	2,208	
Perryman Fund		2,326		
Other income Gift Aid		9,383	10,326	
Online shopping schemes		778	1,125	
Investment bond interest		172	180	
Total Income available for charitable application		<u>63,799</u>	<u>55,368</u>	-
 Resources Expended - Charitable expenditure				
Cost of activities in furtherance of the charities objectives	2	44,435	62,671	
Total Resources Expended		<u>44,435</u>	<u>62,671</u>	
Transfer to Restricted Funds		2,326		-
Net movement in funds		<u>17,038</u>	<u>(7,303)</u>	-

† 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

2025

2024

Raiser's Edge NXT

6,732

6,732

Website and promotion

307

838

Grants made

38,291

54,647

Bank charges

1,105

664

44,435

62,671

3 Creditors

2025

2024

Loans

-

-

-

-

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 2025.

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



04/03/2026

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