



Pippa Blackstone
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Tonbridge Grammar School

Since Pippa's appointment in 2008 £16m has been added to the school's balance sheet. Behind this monetary headline is a generation of teamwork, energy, friendship, expertise, grant funding, philanthropy and other voluntary help which together, have a priceless impact on the everyday TGS experience, celebrating the school's history, and preparing Tonbridge Grammar School for the future.

Through the annual enrichment programme supported by parents, alumni and friends of the school, TGS students are given opportunities to learn in breadth and depth in order to develop as well-balanced individuals, passionate about making a difference in the world.

Following a facilities masterplan we seed fund larger projects from our annual fund and capital fundraising campaigns raise the balance of funds – from philanthropy, corporate discounts, sponsorship and grants fundraising.

We are able to supplement government support for individuals thanks to an endowment legacy gift – the first donor to the school's legacy programme set up in 2013.

In the state sector, where curriculum grant funding is barely £4,500 per annum for each student, Pippa plays her part in sharing the extraordinary work of the school and the funding challenges that all state schools face, in order to bring additional resources and vital funds to the education of our young people, enabling them to leave school 'world ready'.

I am pleased to be able to share the work of schools development with the IDPE network – to which I owe much for the professional support and network that it offers. I am also very pleased to have at my right arm -and my left, a community network platform that enables the school to manage alumni, fundraising and careers networking all under one roof.