

“When our daughter first gained a place at Pate's we were delighted. Pate's has a reputation for academic excellence, and on visits to the school we had been impressed by the focus on pastoral care and extra-curricular activities. We were also astonished by the facilities on offer: there cannot be many state-funded schools with a climbing wall, large playing fields and astro, and such well-maintained classrooms and school buildings.

At one of our first meetings for parents it became apparent from a talk by Mr Ellicott on the Making Ends Meet appeal that the incredible offering at Pate's was due, in no small part, to the support and generosity of many former and current parents, alumni, and donors. The school already has to make difficult financial decisions, and this situation is unlikely to improve in the near future.

We felt strongly that we should contribute to the Making Ends Meet appeal in order that Pate's can continue to be the exceptional school that current pupils enjoy, and, from a selfish perspective, to ensure that our daughter and her peers would continue to benefit from all that Pate's currently offers. We set up a regular monthly donation.

As our daughter progresses through the school we continue to be impressed by the quality of the teaching, the wide variety of opportunities on offer to pupils, and the excellent facilities. Much of this is possible through the support of the Making Ends Meet appeal and we remain committed to helping to ensure that Pate's continues to offer an outstanding education to all pupils.”

***Year 7 Parent***

“I donate to Pate's because I am hopeful that someone from the current generation will be clever enough to solve some of the world's problems. Imagine if my money, which feeds inspiration, leads to one of the children at Pate's becoming a scientist who finds a solution to the antibiotic crisis, or an engineer working on prolonging the shelf life of car batteries, or even dreams up ideas for reversing global warming. I want to have been a part of that and to have made my money work for me and for the future of my children.

I donate to Pate's because I can. Because I don't believe that I am taxed enough and so I have begun a programme of self-taxation. Education, not just at Pate's, should be so much better funded because it forms the basis of a decent democracy where everyone is on a level playing field and what you know becomes more important than who you know. I'm not going to wait for the funding formula at the end of the rainbow. This government does not prioritise education and until it does I am filling a hole so that this generation does not fall through the net. I want them to enjoy culture as well as lessons, otherwise what is it all for?

I donate to Pate's because the school asked for funds and I answered their request. I have given regularly each month since my child started at Pate's so that the school can use that money for the staff pension pot or whatever other hidden costs need answering. Then I give one off donations for the fun stuff like kitting out the new 6<sup>th</sup> form block or equipment in a lab, tangible things that I can see and feel proud of. Those

of us who give £5 a month or those of us who give £500 a month stand together in our ambition for our children.

I donate to Pate's because I once thought of sending my child to a private school. Why is the education of my child at a private school worth such an investment and the education of my child at a state school is not? I'm not smug about a free education for my own child because I feel the weight of responsibility that comes with a place at a selective school. But the good thing about donating to Pate's is that the money doesn't just pay for the education of my own child but for the education of 1,100 other children. For me it is a numbers game. I want as many children as possible to benefit from the best, happiest teachers and the shiniest environment.

I donate to Pate's because charitable giving is part of who I am. When my children were little I was interested in early years provision. When my father was dying of Alzheimer's I became interested in dementia care. Now my children are at secondary school I am interested in education. My priorities have changed over the years and Pate's is benefitting from my current interests in teen welfare and mental health wellbeing. I calculate my donations by weighing up how much I will spend on a foreign holiday or a meal out in a restaurant or how much I can earn in an hour. This puts things into perspective and makes my donation to Pate's seem so very valuable."

***Year 13 parent***