



How you can support the CSA

The school budget, which is allocated by the Local Education Authority and the Government, covers the cost of essential equipment, consumables, repairs and staff salaries.

Collis School prides itself in being able to support areas of extra curricular activities such as sports, school trips, the performing arts. These all require money for equipment, instruments, travel costs, hire fees etc. These are not covered by the school budget.

In order for our children to continue to enjoy this extensive range of extra-curricular activities, we need to get funds from other sources.

Obviously, many parents generously donate their time and energy to help with the various fund-raising events and activities that the CSA organises: but we have been approached in the past by parents who want to help, but who cannot become actively involved in events because of work or family commitments. They have asked if they could donate money directly to the CSA instead, so we have set up a number of ways that this can be done, which are listed below.

There are other ways you can help the CSA's finances, including Gift Aid, Payroll Giving and Company Match Funding. Again, you'll find details below.

Direct Debit Monthly Contribution

Many parents already support the CSA by giving via Direct Debit.

The scheme is purely voluntary, but if every family donated just £5 a month, we would raise approximately £1,750 per month or £21,000 a year! The money will help provide all those little extras that make a big difference.

There is a Direct Debit form attached. You need to add your bank details, a start date and the amount you wish to pay each month. You then need to send in the form addressed to Fiona Breaks, the treasurer of the CSA, care of the school office.

Payroll Giving

Payroll giving is a way for people to give regularly to charity. It allows employees, or occupational pensioners, to give money to any UK charity directly from their pay, before tax is deducted. This means that it costs the donor less and charities get more. Not every company has set up the processes to allow employees to give via Payroll Giving, so if you think you would like to support the CSA this way, you will need to contact your payroll department to see if you can, and, if you can, what you need to do.

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid scheme is another way that parents can help us ensure that we can offer a full range of activities. If you are a UK tax-payer, then every time you go to an event, please sign the gift aid forms at the door. This means that for every pound you give us, we can claim another 28p back from the Inland Revenue.

Match Funding

Many companies, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility programs, encourage staff to get involved in community projects -- including School Fairs, Fireworks Nights, Bake Sales etc -- by offering to match any funds they raise.

This Match funding is a really easy way to increase the revenue of CSA events. We already have lots of parents who work for companies that do match funding, including Barclays, Woolwich, Reuters, NatWest, BP, GSK, Royal Bank of Scotland, Shell and Sky, so if you work for any of these, ask your HR department what you have to do.

If you work for a company that isn't listed above, it's still worth asking the HR department if they do Match Funding, or even if they are prepared to start doing it. And if you know of any other companies which aren't on our list - perhaps including the one you work for - then tell us so we can add it. Just email the CSA's secretary, Carole Tupper. Her address is simon.bushy35@blueyonder.co.uk.

In many cases, to qualify for match funding all you have to do is help at an event in some way - perhaps working a shift on a stall, or helping with the organization. The CSA will then give you a letter for your HR department giving details of what you did and how much the stall you worked on made. They give you a form to sign, and then they send the CSA a cheque.

Match funding alone can easily add as much as £2,000 to the takings of one of our events - and all you have to do is turn up, do a shift and fill in a form.

As Alexander the Meerkat says, 'Simples!'