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Sound of success by house band

Staff from the city's largest housing provider have raised more than £1,500 to help children at a local special school enjoy music.

Employees from Whitefriars Housing Group donned their stage outfits again when they presented the cheque to pupils at Tiverton School, in Rowington Close, Coundon.

The cash will be used to buy a selection of musical instruments to expand and support the children's music therapy lessons.

The Whitefriars' band practised for weeks before performing a selection of hits to a 200-strong crowd, when they took to the stage at the Albany Social Club, Coventry, last Christmas.

They aimed to raise £750 but following on from an initial Christmas event, the band performed at Whitefriars annual staff conference for a "fee", held a dress down day and a raffle and were able to hand over double their target sum.

Sam Moore, Whitefriars' asset manager, who sang backing vocals, said she was delighted.

She said: "It's absolutely great news and exceeded all our expectations.

"Everyone has been so generous, it's overwhelming. The best thing is that the school will be able to buy everything on their musical wish list, rather than a selection of instruments. I hope the children get as much pleasure out of music as we all do."

Tiverton School offers full-time education for up to 42 pupils - the majority of whom have autism or profound and multiple or severe learning difficulties.

Headteacher Arnold Chave thanked the Whitefriars band and said the music lessons were invaluable to pupils.

He said: "This is great news. Many of our children have severe learning difficulties but the lessons help them communicate and make their understanding of the world easier. All the children who have taken part so far really gain a great deal from the sessions".

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