

AGM Chairs Report 2020

Events

September 2019 saw a new team of people take over the helm of the Parents Association and with it we took on the challenge of organising the Christmas Ball. Having not been involved in the organisation in previous years we made the decision to do things a little differently. The major change being no longer using the school catering team to provide the food for the evening but using outside caterers Plyvine instead. This is no reflection on the amazing food that had been provided in previous years, but it was felt by the catering team that the Ball was one event too many for them after the fantastic job they do with all the house dinners in the last few weeks of term.

We also employed a number of 6 formers to help with running the cloakroom, raffle and bar. All students were a credit to the school and their parents and did an incredible job.

The final major change we made was to have a live band for the first time, The Spacehoppers. They certainly filled the dance floor.

All in all the event was seen as a huge success and the changes met with enthusiasm amazing feedback and lots of funds raised for the school (see separate treasurers report on this).

I would like to express my huge thanks to the team of volunteers that put in such hard work and their time to make the event such a success.

I would also like to express my thanks for the support shown at the Michaelmas concert and the year 8 parents evening. The mulled wine and mince pies went down a treat as did the sale of the final batch of Christmas cards.

Unfortunately, due to world events our fundraising efforts with regards to face to face events came to an abrupt end in March just days before our planned annual Quiz and Curry night. Although the event was all sold-out, we had to make the tough decision to postpone it at the very last minute, the correct decision to keep everyone involved safe. We were hoping to re-arrange this event as soon as we could, however, this is now looking unlikely for the foreseeable future.

Lottery and Easyfundraising

Lottery -. Our target is to breakthrough the 100 ticket barrier this year and push towards 150. Due to the reduction in the amount of events we can hold, lottery will be a key fundraising initiative this academic year. The Lottery is a great way for boarders' parents or those not able to participate in events or PA meetings, to support OSH PA.

Easyfundraising - Every time you shop online with any of the 3,600 registered retailers, a small donation is made to OSH PA by the retailer – at no extra cost to

you. You can use easyfundraising for everything including all those Amazon orders (via Amazon smile), buying new computer equipment or renewing insurance policies. Another easy way for parents not able to get involved on a day to day basis to still make a huge contribution. Again, Easyfundraising has to be a key initiative this year.

Donations

This year, donations have been on the smaller side compared to previous years, due to a couple of factors. One being the current Covid-19 crisis and the need to shut school, resulting in some projects we were due to fund being put on hold. We had also started discussions with the school about funding a much larger project for the benefit of the whole school, such as a 4G pitch. Discussions are on-going and it is certainly something the PA would like to continue to work with the school to plan for.

Donations that have been made, include, funding for a new cutter for the DT department, pool table for Foley House and 200 masks for use by staff and students were needed, see treasurers report for a full breakdown of funds.

Looking ahead

Face to face events are having to be put on hold for the foreseeable future and sadly it is looking likely that this year's Winter Ball is going to have to be cancelled. However, this will not stop the PA from supporting school in any way we can and finding new and innovative ways of raising funds. New faces and new ideas are always welcome.

Finally

I would like to express a big thank you to the PA team who show such enthusiasm and commitment month after month. With a special thank you going to my fellow Trustees Tracy, Roger and Hamish.

I would also like to thank Paul Kilbride, Louise Green and Rob Orr, as well as the Finance, Reception, Estates and Events Teams for all your help and support. Without the support the PA receive from the school we would be unable to run the events and raise the funds that we do.

Thank you for making my first year as chair fun, challenging and most definitely memorable.

Clare Cartwright

OSH PA Chair