

Highdown PTA AGM 26th September 2022

Chair's Report

Welcome everyone and thanks for attending the AGM.

A warm welcome to Andy Franks to the PTA – Andy is our teacher liaison on the PTA and if you don't know him, he teaches History and is on the senior leadership team.

As parents, grandparents, carers, and teachers of the children of the school, we are automatically members of the PTA. I'll briefly set out the role of the PTA.

The role of the PTA

The objective of the PTA, according to the constitution, shall be to advance the education of the pupils at the school. The Association may:

- Foster more extended relationships between the staff, parents, students, and others associated with the school.
- Engage in activities which support the school and advance the education of the pupils attending it.
- Provide and assist in the provision of such facilities or items for education at the school (not provided from statutory funds) as the general committee, in consultation with the school management body, shall from time to time determine.

The officers of the Association are Chair, Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The Officers are the Trustees under the Charities Act 1993.

Funds are spent in two ways:

- 1) Fund application process as agreed in 2020 whereby departments submit an application form stating details of the request, funds requested, which pupils will benefit and how. The committee meet termly to review all applications received by the deadline for that term and communicate the outcome to the requesting party.
- 2) Ad hoc requests outside of the above process e.g., urgent items required during COVID pandemic such as face coverings and laptops for students whilst learning from home.

How can parents/carers/teachers help?

- Attend events.
- Help organise events.
- Volunteer at events.
- Find out if your company offers fund matching for PTA events. We are signed up to Benevity which allows companies to support the chosen charities of their employees.
- Suggest fundraising ideas.

Every parent/carer is welcome to attend PTA meetings and if you are interested in any of the above, please contact the PTA. There is no obligation to take a role on the PTA Committee or organise events, but your ideas on fundraising events are always welcome.

Highlights of the past PTA year

This year it has been great to return to in person events and this has really bolstered our finances, as per the Treasurers report. A massive thank you to everyone who has helped organise any of these events and supported them by buying tickets or goods – always so much appreciated. Events have included the year 7/8 disco, two quizzes and the 50th anniversary event.

How the PTA has benefited pupils at the school in the past year

Due to the new process put in place for fund requests and allocation, the PTA has given £6000 of funds to the school to be spent on items including:

- Art supplies
- Y13 leavers party contribution
- Contribution towards the National Theater Connections festival and the National Careers Challenge
- Planters
- Speaker system
- 50th anniversary totum pole contribution
- Basketball equipment

Thank yous

So many to be said!

- Parents on the Committee (Alisa Scott, Alex Humphreys, Hayley Rumble). Your continuous commitment and positivity have been vital to the PTA continuing.
- PTA teacher liaison Daniel Burnell for his commitment last academic year and to Andy Franks who has now taken on this role.
- Selina Hogarth for continuing her work on second-hand uniform sales which generate a steady amount of funds. I appreciate there's more to what Selina does than most of us see, so thank you Selina for your time (and for storing all the items!).
- Our band of PTA supporters who help communicate events, suggest ideas, and offer to help at events.
- Those who offer fund matching for events through their employer.
- Everyone who has spread the word/helped organised/supported any of our events this year.
- Our supporters on easyfundraising.

Every penny of funds raised goes to the school to benefit the pupils.

Plans for the coming year

This term the events planned and soon to be publicised include:

- Year 7/8 Disco 21st October
- Quiz Night 11th November

Our planning meeting for these two events is tomorrow, 27th September at 7:15 on Zoom.

If anyone has any fundraising ideas we'd love to hear from you – we're always open to new ideas - please contact highdown_pta@outlook.com

I hope this year the PTA will continue to gain more support and build upon what we have achieved.

Laura Harmsworth
Chair