

WHSB Parents' Association

Annual General Meeting 2019

Chairperson's Report

As Chairperson I should like to thank you all for joining us this evening for the Parents' Association AGM. It has been, as always, a very busy year for the PA. Over the course of the last five years the Parents' Association has now donated over £65,000 to the School across several departments.

Over the last year, donations have included: £5,000 to the CCF in order for them to purchase necessary kit and equipment for cadets; £2000 for the Music Department to purchase percussion instruments (a glockenspiel and a marimba); £600 to subsidise the purchase price of reusable water bottles to encourage pupils to use less single-use plastic; £200 towards the cost of purchasing dancing shoes for the Drama Department's Costume Wardrobe; and £100 for replacement boxing gloves and sparring pads for the Boxercise Club. All these items and projects funded outside of Departmental budgets help the School to deliver a broad curriculum which is of great benefit to students.

Looking back at the last academic year, our first Parents' Association event held during the 2018-2019 calendar was last year's New Parents' "Welcome to Westcliff" evening. The event proved to be an effective and enjoyable networking opportunity, during which new parents were able to meet others and for the Parents' Association Committee members to introduce themselves. The purpose of the evening is not only for the PA to encourage involvement from amongst the new parents attending but also to offer advice as existing parents of students further up the school.

In March this year, the PA ran their ever popular "Race Night", an entertaining and lively event very much enjoyed by our younger students. Over 100 people gathered in the Sixth Form Building to bet on pre-recorded horse races shown on the big screen with a fish and chip supper or BYO drinks and nibbles. Race nights are an entertaining way of getting people together, ideal for our New Year 7 pupils and their families and a great way of raising funds for the School. Look out for our next Race Night, which promises a lively night of shouting as participants cheer their horses over the finish line!

Last year during the Festive Season, the Parents' Association supported the School at the WHSB "Christmas with the Big Band" event by running a bar and raffling a luxury Christmas hamper. At the Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, the PA served complimentary mulled wine and mince pies to members of the School Community who attended. This year the PA will be doing likewise and more details of both these December events are available in this term's edition of The Westcliff Diary.

In July this year our fundraising events included supporting the PE Department at the School's Sports Day by handing out complimentary water and fruit and selling ice lollies and cookies to students, staff and parents. Also in July, we ran a bar serving Pimms,

Prosecco, beer and soft drinks and sold ice-cream at the WHSB “Summer Band and BBQ”, another well-attended event in the Westcliff Calendar.

Supporting Drama at WHSB is a large part of the PA’s role. In addition to donating funds for the purchase of additional costume items during the last academic year, our PA Members have served complimentary refreshments to parents and guests at the School’s production of “Hamlet”. A key fundraiser in February this year was when the PA supported the School’s large musical production of “Guys and Dolls” by serving interval drinks from a ‘pop-up’ Prosecco Bar and selling ice-cream. We look forward to being represented at this term’s productions of Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein”, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe” in the Spring Term 2020.

In addition to all these events, our Parents’ Association Members have supported the School by serving teas and coffees and talking to parents at the Open Evenings for Year 7 and Sixth Form entry to the School. Most recently our members have served drinks and nibbles to parents and guests at the annual Art and Technology Departments’ Summer Exhibition. Some of our members have worked closely with members of the School’s Sixth Form Charity Committee by providing advice and guidance.

We also fundraise through membership of the Parents’ Association ‘100 Club’. The ‘100 Club’ was established in December 1996 and since its launch has raised tens of thousands of pounds, enabling the Parents’ Association to provide many beneficial items for the School and its’ students. With the passing of each school year, the Parents’ Association loses members of the ‘100 Club’ as their sons and daughters leave WHSB. It is vital therefore for new members to get involved. For a monthly standing order contribution of £5 members, who must be associated with the School, are entered into a monthly draw to win a cash sum, currently in the region of £100. If you would like to join our ‘100 Club’ or find out more about it, please take an information sheet and joining form from the table at the back of the room.

Six years ago we introduced ‘Easyfundraising’ as an additional means of raising money for the School. Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of the UK’s favourite online stores. Just use the links on the Easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, the Parents’ Association will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. Your shopping will not cost you a penny more and every penny raised through this means of fundraising counts. WHSB Parents’ Association has now been registered with Amazon Smile for donations with all those who shop using Amazon. The more people who remember to register their support for WHSB and use these two ways of fundraising, the more money we will raise at absolutely no cost to you as parents/carers and with minimum effort involved.

Other fundraising initiatives employed over the course of the last academic year have included: Waitrose Community Matters (donation box at Waitrose Leigh-on-Sea store); commission from Village Green Festival ticket sales; WHSB PA hessian ‘bags for life’; and souvenir hoodies for the WHSB Ski Trip.

Looking ahead to the 2019-2020 academic year, the Parents' Association looks forward to supporting the School during its Centenary Year. In addition to our usual activities, our members will be assisting with the preparations for the Centenary Ball on 1 February at the Cliffs Pavilion. We will also be very much involved in the joint WHSB/WHSG Centenary Birthday Party on 20 June.

I would like to say a tremendous thank you to all our active Parents' Association Members – we have an excellent team. We meet regularly, typically twice each term, and hold our AGM yearly in September. If any of you would like to become an active Committee Member you will be warmly welcomed. Even if you can only help on an occasional basis, please do let us know. We keep in contact via email regarding our meeting dates and details of events are advertised in the Westcliff Diary. We also have a noticeboard in the corridor adjacent to the Finance Office to the rear of the School Hall.

Finally, on behalf of the Parents' Association I would like to thank the Headmaster for his support and appreciation of the contribution that we make to the School. The Parents' Association would also like to thank Mrs Mumford, Second Deputy Head, Mr Partridge, Director of Resources and Support Services, Mrs Robinson, the Headmaster's PA and the Premises Team and the School Finance Office for their continued help. I would like to thank Helen Smith as Vice Chair for her support since taking up the role last September. Raquel Tanseli, our Parents' Association Secretary, has maintained excellent communications between the Parents' Association and the School and Adele Kelly, our Treasurer for keeping our finances in order and ensured our compliance with Charity Commission regulations throughout the year. I should also like to formally thank Adele for her significant contribution to the Parents' Association over the last ten years since becoming a parent at WHSB in 2009. She steps down this year from her Committee role as Treasurer as her youngest son left the School at the end of Year 13 last summer. Thank you everyone for your time this evening; please do feel free to ask questions.

Jemima Clarke, WHSB PA Chair

23 September 2019