

GREY COURT PARENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING 12 November 2007

Present:

Anna Gilbert (PA chair)	Jill Brooks
Frances Kitson (PA secretary)	Susie Hancock
Maggie Bailey	Linda Winter
Mark Nellis	Jenny Toogood
Sara Tricker	Mandy Litherland
Dorothee Livesey	Catherine Cowan
Catherine Shyjka	Barbara Brightman

Apologies: Adrian Bower, Elaine Smethurst, Sohie McLaughlin, Tim Kimber

1. Committee

Anna Gilbert (Chair) and Frances Kitson (Secretary) stood down. Adrian Bower has agreed to remain Treasurer until the end of the academic year. Sophie McLaughlin has kindly agreed to remain as Deputy Chair.

Linda Winter kindly volunteered to be Secretary, on a trial basis of three months at least.

The post of Chair is vacant.

2. Sub-groups and skills base

A discussion took place about how best to gather information about parents' skills, and about how to share the tasks involved in running the PA. It was agreed that delegating the tasks to sub-groups would be the best way forward. That requires gathering information on which parents are willing to help, and how. Further efforts will be made to gather the necessary information, perhaps using the school database.

NB – since the meeting, the PA has been informed that the school has bought the ParentMail software programme, which will be used to contact the parent community. The school is willing to send communications on behalf of the PA using the ParentMail database.

3. School update – Ms Bailey

School is fully staffed; two vacancies in English (one maternity leave) after Xmas will occur – Ms Bailey will teach the GCSE class herself, as Xmas is not the right time to recruit.

Faculty reviews and student re-groupings have been complete. External inspections are coming up, which the school welcomes.

Tracking of individual needs now very sophisticated.

Very successful parents' information meetings at start of academic year.

Outside funding: looking at et having a smallholding on site, to generate income. Various other ideas being considered.

School trips: No Yr 11 skiing/Florida trip this year – short visit to Paris in spring. There is a staff working group for trips.

Global outlook: encouraging staff and students to have a global outlook, considering the community and wider world. Every teacher has “Ethos” as part of performance management. School has two charities –Leukemia Research and South African Birth Certificates [need name please]

Other activities: Motive8 sports – some doing very well; need minimum 15 per class for viability; pop dance [?] very popular

Dragon Boat – project taking shape

Activities must reach across the population of the school – all about inclusion.

Website: early days, but good progress. Parents need a quick and reliable way of getting information.

4. Funding

Roger Williams (school burser) reports that covenanted funding down to £8000 pa. Need to encourage more regular donations.

Discussion of LEA funding and how very low it is in Richmond. Parents expressed interest in finding out more – get a speaker?

5. Date of next meeting

To be advised