

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES  
MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Present:**

Carol Tait (Co-Chair)	Joanna Benefield (Co-Chair)
Alison Sandford	Dag Sandford
Lynn Moore	Barbara Brightman
Debbie Frame	Sandra Davies
Sophie McLoughlin	Julia Rilett
Elsbeth Millard	Imogen Geraghty
Mark Nellis	Tammy McNicol
Anne Cramp	Catherine Shyjka
Jo Wallace	Caroline Ewart
Muss Shafquat	Linda Wilson
Stewart Wilson	Linda Copland
Linda Brett	
Maggie Bailey – Head	

**Apologies for Absence:** Sara Tricker, Katie Watts

**Welcome to the PA**

Carol Tait welcomed everyone to the PA, especially those new parents and introduced the following people:

Joanna- Benefield	Co-Chair
Linda Copland	Treasurer
Linda Brett	Secretary

**Matters Arising**

Carol Tait reported back on two recent events:

Summer Fun Day – this had been a great success especially as it was a new venture. The Fun Day incorporated music, sports, an art exhibition and pony rides. £300 was raised and it was felt that this was a good event to continue for the future

Social Event – this was held at Sophie McLoughlin's house in the summer to say thank you to everyone for their continued support with the PA and had been a great success.

**School Update**

Maggie Bailey updated on the following:

Year 7 Parent Evening had been well attended and was very positive. Year 7 pupils had settled in well.

There had been a positive atmosphere this year on the start of the new school year and the pupils have been focused and orderly which was a sign that the school was moving in the right direction. This was also reflected in the standard of school uniforms being worn. In addition the Learning Support was working well.

Exam results for the school had gone up by 20% in the last two years. Improvements were still needed in English and Mathematics. Year 11 pupils will sit their English GCSE in November 2009 as they had completed their course work. This would enable additional time to be spent on mathematics and other qualifications/subjects. It was hoped that this would be continued with subsequent Year 11 pupils. Year 9 would also be doing their GCSE English earlier. There were vacancies for Head of Mathematics and Head of Science and these posts will be advertised.

### **Wish List**

Linda Copland (Treasurer) confirmed that the PA had funds of £13623 plus covenant funds of £1073 giving a total of £14333 available to spend. Maggie Bailey outlined the wish list from various school departments.

#### **Drama**

New digital camera for use in lessons and extra curricular activities as the old ones were now broken: Cost £350.  
Shelves and Storage: Cost £200

#### **Music**

Drum kit as the current drum kit has been steadily deteriorating since last year and the number of students taking drum lessons has increased along with the rock school extra curricular club: Cost £350  
Samba Kit for using during lesson time and after school: Cost £700 for 3 drums

#### **Physical Education**

Scrum Machine to enable safe training for rugby development: Cost £2000  
Cricket Mats (Indoor): Cost £300 (£50 each - 6 mats)  
Gym Mats: Cost £1000 (£500 each - 2 mats)  
Rowing Machine which will help if the Fitness Centre proposal is agreed next year: Cost £1500

#### **Science**

8 Dynamic Systems: Cost £1041.20 (£130.15 each – 8 systems)  
10 Heart Monitors: Cost £730.98 (£73.98 each – 10 monitors)  
8 Microscopes: Cost £768 (£96 each – 8 microscopes)

#### **DT**

1 Camera: Cost £350

#### **MFL**

Boardworks: Cost £300

#### **Humanities:**

Field Work Equipment: Cost £500

#### **LRC**

Chess Boards: Cost £200

#### **Clipbank**

Channel 4 Cross curricular digital video clip library: Cost £5000  
The PA agreed to fund all these items which would mean that they would need to raise funds this year towards the proposed Fitness Centre if that was agreed.

### **Plans for the Year Ahead**

A list of planned events was distributed to the meeting.

Quiz Night – would be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at the school and the PA would run a bar for this event. Sophie McLoughlin volunteered to liaise with the person who organises the questions regarding his availability for this date. Parent Workshops are to be allocated for the current school year and Joanna Benefield reported that she was looking into subjects for the Workshops including Internet Safety. An email would be sent around with regard to suggested subjects.

### **Car Boot Sale**

Carol Tait reported that the Car Boot Sales, which started in September 2008 with 48 cars now had about 70 cars per sale. Carol Tait distributed a list around for volunteers for the next sale, which was Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. She reported that Tim Kimber had kindly volunteered to carry on helping with the website, even though he no longer had any children at Grey Court School. It was acknowledged at the meeting that Tim's continued help was much appreciated.

It was agreed that a bbq would be held at the sale in September.

Carol Tait asked anyone to let her know if they had any ideas to attract any more buyers by emailing her.

There was a suggestion that more banners should be put up in Ham. Maggie Bailey said that she would ask the New Inn at Ham Common if they would display a banner.

Carol Tait reported that feedback from the questionnaire she had sent out had been: everyone had liked the bbq and it was agreed that this would continue, a suggestion to keep the buyers out for longer to enable the sellers to set up properly, to advertise home cooked food and sell cakes.

### **Teams**

Carol Tait and Joanna Benefield outlined their proposal to have teams to help run events so that there was not the onus on the same people to organise all fund-raising events:

1. Quiz Nights – to include bar and raffle
2. Summer Fun Day
3. Car Boot Sales – advertising, distributing leaflets, putting up banners and signs

They requested that if anyone could volunteer to be a team member for one of these events to email either Carol or Joanna.

### **Donation Appeal**

Carol Tait reported that the one off appeal last year had raised £7000 in total and a discussion took place as to whether to continue with one off donations or to go via a regular payment route. The PA felt that it was better for these request to come from the school and not the PA. Maggie Bailey agreed to take this to the governors meeting in September 2009. Maggie Bailey felt it

was better for it to take the form of a parental contribution either as a one off payment or a direct debit payment so that parents did not feel that they had to donate a minimum amount of money. The PA agreed with this recommendation. Maggie Bailey agreed to report back to the next PA Meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Wish List**

The PA suggested that Collegium representatives should be invited to the next meeting to discuss where they would like PA funding to be spent. Maggie Bailey agreed to invite some representatives.

#### **Waitrose Community**

A suggestion was made that the PA could put forward their details to Waitrose Community to raise funds. Waitrose have £1000 per store to divide between three charities per month. It was agreed that the PA should do this.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at the Hawker Centre, Kingston