

Chairman's Report 2017/18

Wednesday 3rd October 2018

Thank you all for coming along tonight. I would like to welcome those newcomers.

This has been my 3rd year as Chair of the Derby Grammar School PTA. I'm happy to say I'm still enjoying it as much as ever. The dedication of our volunteers and the special friendships we have developed as a group goes from strength to strength.

Our fundraising activities have provided fantastic facilities and equipment which support the school, and enrich the education of its' pupils, our children. Mr Treasurer will run through these in a moment.

I am very thankful of the relationship we had with Mrs Reynolds, Acting Head over the past year and would like to thank Lesley for her support together with The Bursar, Mr Hilliam and all the school's staff, without their support the PTA would not be able to achieve what we have and I look forward to a continued relationship with Dr Norris.

At the start of the school year I presented our PTA recognition award to Geraint Thomas during speech night. Geraint supported the PTA during his son, Harry's time at Derby Grammar and was involved in the creation and upkeep of the PTA Newsletter portal. To that effect you will have seen that the PTA have a regular feature on the weekly newsletter and have great presence on the school website and through other communication avenues via the school. Thank you to Jenny Baldwin for helping to bridge the gap between the PTA and school as we continue a more combined effort in working together. Jenny's help in producing marketing collateral and publicity material to help promote the PTA is very much appreciated.

So, let me take you on a journey which saw us raise a circa £12,000 last academic year:

Having not supported cross country at The Opening of Rykneld event. The first event of the year was during the autumn term, when we held our regular fireworks night which again proved to be extremely successful. A clear Friday November night aided a terrifically busy night – the busiest yet raising a whopping £4800. It was great to see so many parents, pupils and staff, together with people from the local community and beyond. Our firework night has become the must attend event of the year and we are bracing ourselves for another bumper year. I would like to thank everyone who helped with this event. But, a special thanks to the Firework team on the night last year – Charles Dunning, Mr Whitworth, Miles Butterworth and Charnie Kalirai. All of whom love it so much their hi-vis jackets are making another appearance in November (any excuse to wear yellow!)

During the spring term we supported the regular Jazz Night featuring Jon Eno and his Hot House Band. PTA again joined together with the Tanzania team who provided a very tasty fish and chip supper. The PTA took the profit from the bar that evening and paid half towards the cost of Jon Eno's fee. Jazz Night is supported mainly by the Tanzania parents, who, understandably do not spend much on the night (hence the PTA bar takings being quite low). As a community the Tanzania group need to recognise this in order for the PTA involvement to be viable moving forward and must strive to involve the whole school community. Perhaps each Tanzania child should be set a target to sell tickets to other DGS school year groups rather than family members – just a thought! Thank you to Michaela and Andrew for setting up the bar and thanks to those who helped behind the bar on the night and of course those PTA members who helped with the bar profits – naming no names!



In March we held our sixth annual Food Fayre in conjunction with a school open day. We were once again able to build on the success of the previous five years and we have achieved our goal of creating what I believe will continue to be a regular major fundraising event for the PTA. We were again able to fill the hall with local food related vendors with the food demonstrations from local establishment The Black Cow. The combination of open day and PTA event worked very well, drawing people in to see what the school has to offer. The junior school performances throughout the day combined with live music in the quad, helped keep people at the school for longer and enabled them to experience more of Derby Grammar School Life. Unfortunately we weren't blessed with great weather, but nonetheless it was a lovely day and a chance to showcase the school to our impending new Head, thanks to Ruth for coming along on the day prior to her joining DGS.

However, we also couldn't help but notice another year of poor attendance from our school community with poor parent attendance. We charged £1 entry which helps the fundraising efforts, but we need to work hard as a group to encourage attendance from parents. Events like this grow with people returning each year to see what we have on offer, but without good attendance we won't get repeat exhibitors. Thank you to all that contributed on the day.

In the summer term we held our annual summer fete. We built on the success of the previous years but again learnt from our mistakes and cut down on our outgoings which meant that we could increase the profit that we made. There were a few comments about it being a little samey, but unless those making the comments would like to contribute and offer or add something different, the summer fete will continue with a similar format which we know will make a profit.

Again, my highlight would have to be soaking Mr Hilliam in the stocks. Sorry Paul! I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with this event, not only PTA members but members of staff, parents and pupils whose stalls raised such a lot of money.



We hosted another Summer Ball in June and given the eagerness to hold another ball after a fantastic event in 2016, ticket sales were much lower than expected, however the ball still managed to raise an incredible amount and a great night of flapper dancing was had by all! Special thanks go to Andrew & Michaela Gentles and JD Parties for their kindness and generosity of themselves and their suppliers for co-ordinating the event.

In addition to everything else, PTA members also attended the school Open Days to speak to prospective parents, attended induction meetings, and held regular second hand uniform sales. Thanks to those who give up their Saturdays and afterschool time to support the Open Days to meet and greet and spread the good word of Derby Grammar from a parents point of view and promote the PTA work.

Thank you to Jackie Rudd for managing the PTA 2nd hand uniform and for her trusty helpers including Loretta. Many times Jackie gets a last minute call from a parent needing a certain piece of kit to which Jackie jumps in her car at short notice to sort them out.

We also raised a considerable amount of money through the bags2school initiative. Thanks to Kayte Genders for leading this and for continuing to share with the PTA.

In addition to the regular events that are planned we should also continue to support the Easy Fundraising initiative, details of which are included on the school website. With Black Friday on the horizon, a comms will be going out to remind people to buy through Easy Fundraising.

This has been another good year for the PTA and because of our activities we have been able to donate an array of items for the school. Mr T will go through the items a little later.

I would like to thank the committee, Michaela for her enthusiasm, support and friendship and Michael for his important and often unseen work on the financial side. Charles, for his ear to bend and to provide sanity checks when needed and for being happy to move forward with items that I delegate to him.

Thanks must also go to Paul Hilliam for his continued support and his role as the vital link between our committee and the school.

Can I also thank Sean Pearce, 6th form PTA representative, whose role in increasing the awareness of the pupils about the work that the PTA do through the school council is most important. We welcome Sam Cochrane as our new 6th form PTA representative. Also thanks to the school reception staff for their continued and invaluable support.

Looking forward ahead to this year, we have already funded communications equipment for Formula 24 and have committed to fund race-suits in the Spring term. We also have some exciting “big ticket” funding requests coming through, which we’ll discuss at our following meeting.

Our PTA goes from strength to strength with new faces pitching in to help at every event. As I've said before, even if you can't come to PTA meetings, help on the day of events is invaluable. A big pat on the back to you all.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the PTA this year. Their drive and dedication has been incredible. We must continue to encourage new and different members to join in, who may bring new ideas and skills to the table, and work on the lessons that we have learned to ensure that we continue to raise money for the benefit of the children at this wonderful school.

Thank you!!

Caroline Euston – Chair