

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting – welcome to all the existing committee members on whom we depend to support and organise the various PPA activities and events, Welcome also to any new members attending for the first time to see what we do and hopefully join in.

This has been my 1st year as chair of the Pate's Parents Association, stepping into the role has been both daunting and pleasurable in equal measure. My favourite part has been working with such wonderful people.

At the end of my 1st year as Chair I look back with an overall sense of satisfaction of what we have all achieved together.

Although the Pandemic stopped us in our tracks mid-March we are so proud we have managed to raise **£39,701** from September to June 2020.

The Spring fair continued to be our biggest earner of the year and despite being a week away from a national lockdown we made an astounding profit! I cannot begin to explain how much effort, blood, sweat, and happy tears go into the organisation of this event.

On the day the Gallery was buzzing with cake and plant sales, as well as other refreshments; Many thanks go to Graham, Nadiya and Tabitha for managing the kitchen so well and Kate Thompson and other parents for running various stalls.

The hall was full of a wide range of exciting external stalls; a special thank you to Rachel Abbott, who single-handedly organised and liaised with all the stall holders, both before and during the event so successfully.

The gym was packed with budding student entrepreneurs, all ably organised by Anne C and Becka. The school jazz band was there, as always to entertain us while we browsed and Ro managed to pull together a wonderful selection of raffle prizes.

This brings me to the raffle itself. This year I wanted to change the way we do our raffle system, to become paperless and less complicated for us and the parents! It sounded great but what I needed was someone with a lot of patience and skills to turn my idea into reality. Thank you to Anne and Kirk for making it happen! As this was a new idea we decided it was best to continue to write all raffle tickets just in case; a special thank you to Anne D, Margret, Carolyn, Anne C, Jo, **Kirk** with help writing out over 6,000 tickets.

The online raffle was a huge success with a profit of over £6,000. The software worked perfectly, and we can now say we are able to run a completely paperless, eco-friendly online raffle. No more hunting around your Childs school bag for raffle tickets or spending hours writing your name and address over and over!

Thank you to all the parents who helped in the run up to the event and who came to support it on the day.

The annual quiz night was a huge success, raising **£1168**. A huge thanks to Stephen for organising such a successful event. I've never seen so many competitive parents in one room!

The Christmas bazaar was a lovely festive event, thank you for the generous donations of homemade soups, cakes, mince pies, Magda's delicious toasties and for all the parents that attended on a wintery Tuesday night.

The 100 club continues to be a particularly important source of income for the PPA clearing **£5398** in this past year. We have Alex to thank for this. She has run the 100 club super-efficiently over the past year. The search for new members is on-going and it's always been an easy way for new parents to both help out financially and become connected to the school.

Our second hand uniform shop recently renamed "the nearly new uniform shop" has been headed up by the lovely Jo with help from Debbie, Ro and Louise. Thank you ladies for all your continued support and raising much needed funds. In the past month alone it has raised nearly £900!

What a wonderful job Eleanor did last year and continues to do heading up the refreshment teams and making healthy profits on our refreshment sales. Her honed buying skills, preparation and proactiveness ensure we have everything we need for every event. Thank you also to Alison for heading up the chocolate and sweets purchasing (what a satisfying job to do).

Last year was the 1st year the PA had managed the food for the annual Chinese new year event, there were some delicious foods but a special and heart felt thank you to Jody for your delicious contribution (the best noodles I've ever tasted) as well as organising the raffle. This event raised over £1100

Aside from the events mentioned, the Autumn term at least, included the many other school events such as house music, the carol concert, parent social evenings and instrumental concerts that the PA always supports and I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help, made delicious cakes or sent in donations for our amazing hampers so ably put together by Vicky.

Having so many willing volunteers has been such an amazing part of the PA and I am incredibly grateful to Ping for coordinating them all so competently and ensuring that we have enough help at each event. Thank you also to Janey for her eloquent write ups of events and helping to ensure news of our successes reach all the parents

Thanks to the amazing sums of money raised last year the PA contributions to school have included:

£14,000 for IT equipment, we paid for 32 new computers allowing IT teaching in all four of the teaching rooms in the E block, this will benefit both the students and the staff

£12,000 for new GCSE and A level books for English and Geography as well as payment for pupil planners and various school council requests.

As I said at the beginning, I met the role of chair this time last year with equal pleasure and trepidation, but there are a lot of people who have helped, supported and guided me. This has made the role purely a pleasure. Please bear with me while I thank all these lovely people for their generosity of time and support.

Firstly, thank you to Sarah for all your help and gentle reminders. You are always there, at every meeting, day or night (unofficially) to answer questions, guide and assist wherever you can. Your help has been invaluable.

I am very grateful for the ongoing support and guidance provided by our head teacher Russel Ellicott, the Bursar Stephen Locke for attending every meeting as well as being the best “ball selector” for our 100 Club.

Thank you to Rachel Thorpe for the support and for all your kind words and the appreciation shown.

Special thanks must go to caretakers Anthony and Phil, for lifting and carrying for us, locking up after us and being ready to respond to issues as they arise.

Also I would like to extend thanks to Yvonne Shelmerdine, and Fiona Hutton-Potts and the team in the front office for all of their friendly assistance and support.

It is only with the support from all these members of the Pate’s community that the PA is able to function as well as we do.

Thank you to Bronwyn for covering the secretary role over the past year and preparing us for the ‘new normal’ with meetings. Our AGM has never been so well attended so maybe zoom is the way forward!

Anne(vice chair), and Margaret (Treasurer) , without you both the past year would have been almost impossible. Anne thank you for your letter writing skills, experience, and support with everything. Margaret - Thank you for managing all the money and figures, You are super-efficient and are always there to help. Thank you for keeping the accounts firmly in order reminding us how well we are all doing. As well as managing all the accounts you help at the majority of events and always manage a smile.

I would like to end my report by saying thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support in what has been a very difficult year. As a completely new committee, I’m sure you can appreciate the sleepless nights and worry that 'things wouldn’t go as planned". We needn’t have worried! Together we have made a wonderful amount of money for school, contributed much needed resources for the students and made friends along the way. We are so genuinely lucky with the people, knowledge, and talent we have within the team.

I am now looking forward to meeting the challenges of the year ahead and hopefully finding ways to overcome them and raise much needed funds for the school. I do hope lots of you

will support the PA in this and in so doing experience the pleasure of being part of this wonderful community that I have felt during this year.
Thank you.