

Chair's Report

On behalf of the PA, I would like to formally welcome you all, especially parents of Year 7 students who are new to the school and the PA, thank you for attending.

The PA was formed for "the advancement of the education of the pupils of CCHS by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the school", which is a longwinded way of saying "to raise money"! We see our role as twofold – to raise funds for the benefit of the girls and secondly, and equally importantly, to foster relationships between parents, staff, the girls and indeed the wider community.

Some examples of ways in which we have done this, both in previous years and this year prior to Covid restrictions:

- * providing refreshments at Parents Evenings, concerts, open evenings and school productions
- * second hand uniform sales
- * the Christmas Fayre, open to all
- * And primarily through the school wish list, which last year gave grants of over £7K, the details of which are to be found in the Treasurer's report.

Our total revenue this year was just over £20k, an amount which doesn't raise itself. We are indebted to:

Tony Liversedge, for the Wish List Lottery

Jackie Patient, for auditing the accounts on a voluntary basis

PA representative prefects Anna and Alana

Staff and teachers of the school especially Mrs Ledwidge, Mrs Mulgrew, Mr Cable, the Buildings Team and our special thanks to Mr Lawlor.

Members of the PA, all those parents who have helped this year, whether stacking chairs or pouring coffee

And finally my personal and most humble thanks to the excellent and hard working Executive team: my Vice Chair Julie Martyn, Treasurer Niki Sutton and Secretary Tracy Gigov.

This has been an "interesting" year for us as a charity, with the first part of the year, prior to lockdown, very much on track to be an excellent year in terms of revenue, with new events such as the Quiz Night and Book sale, in addition to our usual events like second hand uniform and parents evenings.

We also formulated and published the PA's very first privacy policy, available to view as a PDF and on the school website.

Further we have recently applied and been granted NGO charitable status by Microsoft, enabling us to use Teams as an organisation in our own right from next month. This should streamline the day to day operations of the PA considerably.

Despite the challenges of this year, with lockdown and social distancing, we have still been able to support the school community, with top-ups for the school meal voucher scheme and our continued support of the digital theatre and ebook subscriptions, both of which I am assured are well utilised by the students, particularly so during the period of home schooling.

Looking forward, we envisage a considerably slower year than previous years as social distancing measures remain in place. All is not lost, however, and we continue to raise funds both in our tried and tested formats including Amazon Smile and easyfundraising, but also with new ventures including, for the first time, Christmas puddings, an online raffle, online quiz night, and online second hand uniform sale. We also hope to be able to offer our usual Donut Day for the girls, but in a socially distanced format.

Like every organisation this year, the PA has faced considerable challenges with school being closed for the period from March until Sept, all our usual face to face events cancelled and the resultant loss of income that has entailed for us. Despite all that, our accounts show revenues down just under £4k net on 2019, Niki Sutton will be able to fill us in on that in more detail. I hope we can continue to rise above the difficulties faced and with goodwill and good humour endeavour to assist the students through this most extraordinary of times.

Thank you for your attendance here tonight and for your continued support and commitment to excellence in the education of our girls.

Catherine Carby

Chair

Oct 2020.