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2018-2019 Chair's Report

Thank you

We would like to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone who has supported both of us throughout this school year while we adjusted to our new role as joint chairs. It has been a steep learning curve, going from event volunteers to joint chairs but we appreciate all the support we have received from the other PTA volunteers and the school staff. We welcomed some other new faces to the committee, Susan and Catherine who along with Trish, Louise M, Jez, Kate and Roger, have been full of great ideas and support and thank you to our treasurer Tim for looking after all of our finances. All of the committee have given up their time to help make each event a success and it is really appreciated. We also appreciate the support we received from all those parents who helped at the Y7 disco and those who came along and helped serve refreshments at parents' evenings. All help is gratefully received whether it is for one event or many.

Events and Fundraising

Tim's Treasurer Report will provide a full break down of what money has been raised this year and where it has been spent, but we are pleased to confirm that we were able to give the school a much needed £3200 towards text books this year, fund one of the mini buses again and provide equipment to the Music and Drama and Geography Departments and the Science and Animation Club.

Our first event of the year was the Y7 disco. We were able to combine this with Y7 tutor meetings, enabling parents to meet tutors and each other, while the children danced around the hall. The evening was a great success and we hope to combine PTA events with school/tutor events again this coming school year.

As always the Christmas Raffle was our biggest fundraiser and a huge thanks to Karen and Louise M for all of their hard work gathering prizes, writing letters and emails and organising the draw. Unfortunately Karen is no longer with the school and her support with the raffle will be sorely missed, but we are looking forward to working together with her raffle replacement. Thank you again to all of the companies and individuals who donated prizes.

A first for us this year was our Easter Craft Fair. We had a great turn out in terms of stallholders – unfortunately the event was not very well supported by the school community, although we would like to say a huge thank you to all of those families and friends who were able to come along, we hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did – our tombola stall was a great success. We were pleased to be able to support our sixth formers who ran a cake stall to raise funds for their overseas trips this summer.

Throughout the year, you will have seen one of us or another PTA volunteer at various parents evenings serving tea and coffee. We have managed to raise a small amount of money through this and raise awareness of who the PTA are and what we do.

In the summer we had our last event of the school year, our quiz and curry night. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Jay and her team of students who not only prepared and cooked a delicious curry, but served it and cleared up afterwards. The evening was a great success and one we hope to repeat next year.

The FoFs Fotto is still going strong, overseen by Kate Barnes who has sadly stepped down from the committee – a huge thank you to Kate for all of her support and help. Welcome to Irene, who will be taking over Fotto duties.

Jez has been hard at work liaising with the Solution for Education Folders team – copies of which were seen at the Y6 Induction Evening full of information for the new pupils. Thank you.

Challenges

Driving engagement and interest among parents and carers at school remains our biggest challenge. We will be looking at ways to encourage more participation for specific roles at events that parents could do that don't require attending any meetings. We have tried throughout the year to highlight our fundraising activities, the role of the PTA and where money has been spent through our own termly newsletters, information in the weekly newsletter, our Facebook page and through attending events such as the Y6 induction evening.

For the PTA to survive it is essential that we have increased support from parents and carers and that it is not left to the few who have always stepped up to the plate. It is vital that new people become involved or the PTA will struggle and will fail to continue.

Amanda Haines and Lou Kimber
Joint Chairs