

Chair's Report 2008/09

“Who, What and How”?

The Parents' Association (PA) supports all stages of school life from Year 7 to the Sixth Form. We work closely with the school and we are indebted to the ongoing support from the management, teaching and administrative staff, without whom our aims would be impossible to achieve.

The primary aim of the Parents' Association is to help strengthen the School community and widen the enjoyment and opportunities for pupils at the School. The PA raises funds to provide grants for equipment and projects not normally provided by the local authority, however we also aim to provide closer links between home and school and we work to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school.

Anyone with children at the school is very welcome to join the Parents' Association; we currently have a mix of male and female committee members and volunteers, so for all you Dads out there please don't think it's just for Mums. Also please don't think that you can only be involved if you have lots of spare time, the majority of our members have busy demanding jobs and so the more of us there are the less there is for any one individual to do. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our efforts this year, whether as a committee member or in response to a call for help at various events ranging from uniform fitting to directing traffic at car boot sales!

There are many ways in which you can help – as a committee member, volunteering to help at an event (you don't have to attend PA meetings), as a member of the refreshments rota, or simply coming along and enjoying yourself at PA fundraising events. Your help is appreciated enormously and being involved in the PA also means you get more fully involved in your son / daughter's school life - I've been in the PA since my son joined the school in 2007 and this has been my first year as Chair.

What have we been up to?

Fundraising events have included the Christmas Fayre (soon to come around again); Car Boot Sales between May and July; BBQ at the STSR Sports evening; New and Nearly New Uniform Sales, and also the Suttons Seeds catalogue sales.

These events (together with the Gifting Scheme and 100 Club) have enabled us to provide grants for:

- Sports & Affiliation fees
- Minibus expenses
- Plaques for the Australian Rugby Tour
- Benches
- The reinstatement and development of the Wildlife / Dipping Pond

This last item is exciting as it will see the resurrection of an important educational facility for the school and the turn around of an unused, dilapidated site into what will be an attractive and vibrant natural habitat.

2008 / 09 has seen the arrival of new faces to the PA and I want to particularly thank everyone for their huge enthusiasm which has certainly made my job as Chair enjoyable and has added enormously to the success of the Parents Association. As well as arrivals, we have also seen the departure of some members whose children have reached the end of their time at STRS and

therefore time for them to move on also, thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Parents' Association. In particular I'd like to mention Julie Melvin, who for the past few years has organised the Car Boot Sales so brilliantly and has also helped on numerous other fundraising events, and Ann Rawlins who for the past year has been the Treasurer for the PA and a stalwart volunteer at fundraising events. I'd also like to mention Julie Austin, part of STRS's administrative team who left the school in August. Julie designed, printed and distributed flyers for the majority of our fundraising events and her tireless help was always very much appreciated.

So how will we meet our aims in this current academic year?

Upcoming events for 2009/10 include: the Christmas Fayre; Wine Tasting Evening; and a Spring Ball (which for the first time will be a joint venture with Denmark Road). These are just for starters as we have many other plans in the melting pot and we need your support! Without you these events just won't work so please contribute in any way you can.

Finally, I would like to thank (in anticipation), the committee (including Mr Kellie and Mr Carter, for continuing to support the work of the PA), the refreshments team, school staff, and volunteers for the time and energy that you contribute to the PA and to the ongoing success of our fundraising efforts.