

Katie Panton

I joined the PA when my son Jack started at STRS in September 2007. It's been my first experience of a PA and I wanted to get involved simply to see where I could help out. Little did I know at the time that a year down line that I would be walking away from the AGM as the new Chair.

The PA really does make a difference in the school, and I'm only just starting to understand how much was achieved under the leadership of the previous Chair (Sali Gray) who put in an enormous amount of time and effort. Hers are big shoes to step into, and I hope to manage to fill them in time!

The PA exists to raise funds to directly benefit all pupils across all areas of the school and curriculum. We enable the school to provide things which fall outside of the remit of the Education Authority and as such help to enhance the student's experience of life at STRS. The PA also provides the perfect forum for getting to know other parents and some of the teaching staff.

I know that we all lead very busy lives but I would urge anyone reading this to consider getting involved, we're always pleased to welcome new members and appreciate any ideas anyone may have on fundraising activities.

Ways to become involved:-

- Become a Committee Member. Level of commitment – attend as many committee meetings as possible – we hold around 5-6 per year.
- Register as a 'Helper'. Level of commitment – don't need to attend committee meetings, but are happy to be called upon to help at Events.
- Join the Coffee/Tea Making Rota. This is organised by Vivian Austin and Janet Swift and is run independently of the main PA – Level of commitment – help at as few or as many Events as you want.
- Donate Raffle Prizes, Tombola Items, Unwanted Gifts, etc., and/or Bake Cakes, for the Christmas Fayre.
- Do you enjoy walking? We always need extra people to deliver Flyers promoting Events to the houses on streets close to the School.
- Do you have a Business? We're always looking for Items to be donated for Auctions and Raffles – or you could Sponsor a Sports Kit.

Please e-mail me if you would like to join the PA in any capacity, need more information, or would like to receive Minutes of the Committee Meetings (these are sent by e-mail, where possible – please note, your e-mail address may be visible to other recipients of the e-mailed 'Minutes Distribution List' but will not be passed on to any third party).

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katie.panton@pfizer.com

Tel: 07990 530272