

Chairman's Report 2005-2006

Once again, the Parents' Association has raised a phenomenal amount of money for the school and for that I would like to thank each and every person who has freely given their time, energy and enthusiasm to this very worthy cause.

Our aim for 2005-2006 was to make a substantial contribution towards the £28,000 cost of re-developing the Changing Rooms. We didn't make a substantial contribution – I'm delighted to announce that we raised enough money to be able to give the school a £28,000 grant for the whole re-development costs. In addition we gave funding, in the form of grants, for Affiliation and Sports Fees, we covered all of the Mini-bus Expenses and we funded the cost of 5 new Keyboards for the use of Key Stage 3 and 4 Students.

Our Fundraising Events started with our 2nd Autumn Ball. Once again, it was a great success and the feedback from attendees was fantastic. I would like to say a big "Thank you" to everyone who helped with the planning and preparation, those who came to help on the day and during the evening and especially those who came on the Sunday for the 'clear-up' operation. Many hands did make very light work. Special mentions must be given to Anne Rawlins, (parent and talented flower arranger) who once again produced the most exquisite floral arrangements, to our Auctioneer for the evening, Joe Hiram, (a parent at the school, who just happens to be a professional Auctioneer) who did a sterling job - not only did he auction the donated items, but he also auctioned the floral arrangements on each table, to Alison Halliday (parent) for once again producing well thought out Seating Plans, to Angela Fu (parent) for producing delicious food for the volunteers, and not least of all to the 6th Formers Jesse Pywell (who sang so beautifully), David Dorey and Matthew Hawken, who entertained the guests as they arrived and during dinner. The Ball itself ran seamlessly thanks to my helpers on the evening, Lindsay Evans, Kathy and Jim Tribe, Sally Creese, and Gary Dixon and the fantastic support from the un-named helpers. We are also very grateful for the donations of Auction Items and Raffle Prizes which swelled our profit.

The Year 7 evening was again, very successful, although it was noted that there were fewer attendees this year. Again we received excellent feedback from those who had also attended the Ball.

The Christmas Fayre raised over £5200, with the Silent Auction alone raising nearly £2500 and breaking all previous records. Special thanks must go to the Young Family, who put in a tremendous amount of hard work to ensure its success and also to Sheila Johnson who worked with Liz Young to secure 'Lots' for the Auction.

Sadly, Liz is no longer able to continue with the Silent Auction, and, despite a number of appeals through the Minutes and the Newsreel, we have been unable to recruit a Team to continue with this popular fund raising activity.

During this year we found a volunteer among STRS Students to develop our website. Sadly, having put a considerable amount of items on it, it crashed and everything was lost. This project is ongoing, however, and I'm sure by this time next year, it will be completed. A special thank you to Matthew Hopton, for the amount of time he has

spent on this project.

We planned 3 Car Boot sales again this year, although one was postponed due to a double booking of the Tennis Courts, until September 06. These events have been growing in popularity and the PA has been pro-actively marketing them much further a-field, with flyers being posted to Supermarkets, Libraries and other public places. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the promotion, organisation and running of these events.

Suttons Seeds Catalogues and Name Tape Order Forms were, once again, distributed to parents and all orders placed earned commission for the PA Funds.

Sports Evening was held in June and the PA Barbeque was very popular, not least of all because of the excellent quality of the burgers and sausages, supplied by Cresse Butchers and cooked to perfection by John Whitley. Well done everyone.

The 100 Club has grown from strength to strength, in the capable hands of Julie Power and has proved to be an excellent fundraising exercise.

Uniform Sales have been taken over by Sally Creese and Anita Grogan, who had received excellent tutoring from Penny Lancaster. They have been supported in this demanding role by other PA members and I would like to thank you all, for your hard work. I would also like to record that 'feedback' from the 'new year 7' parents, regarding our 'uniform sessions' has been extremely positive, with words such as "professional" and "organised" being heard many times.

Special thanks to Bob Burns for continuing to administer the Gifting Scheme, a major source of income for the Parents' Association, and to our Treasurer, Keith Tranter for his very capable control of the purse strings and also for his valuable "no holds barred" input to PA Meetings.

I would also like to thank Mr Kellie and Mr Carter for attending every PA Meeting and for their continued support of our efforts, to the extent that they do try to attend (and mostly succeed in doing so) each and every event that we hold. It is very much appreciated. Thank you.

To summarise, I am proud to say that, once again, thanks to the support of parents and the local community, Sir Thomas Rich's School Parents' Association has had a very successful year. Sadly, we have said farewell to some very familiar faces this year:- Esther Parker, our Secretary and Penny Lancaster, our previous Uniform Co-ordinator's sons have now left the school, as has John Whitley's (our fabulous chef) and Helen Davies' (whose fantastic 'Basket Stall' at the Christmas Fayre was a magnet for visitors). In addition, Liz Young (Silent Auction) retired from the PA (although she continues to provide magnificent support, in her role as Assistant Administration Secretary within the school and Tony Solomon (Vice-Chair) resigned due to ill health. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all both personally and on behalf of the PA for the huge amount of time, effort and enthusiasm they generously contributed to ensuring the continued success of the PA.

We have been very lucky as a Parents' Association, where many flounder, ours has gone from strength to strength. We have 'Year Representatives' each year and a strong committee. Carole Walsh replaced our outgoing Secretary, Esther Parker and I would like to thank Carole very much for her excellent organisational skills and attention to detail, which makes my role as Chair so much easier. We didn't manage to replace the Vice-chair although Keith Tranter, our Treasurer, was happy to cover the role, if needed.

We do, however, urgently need more people to join the Parents' Association, so please consider whether you might be able to do this, either as a Form Representative, or as Vice Chairman, or in a supporting role.

Thank you.

Sali Gray. Chair STRS PA AGM Oct 06