

## STRS PA

### Chairman's Report 2006-2007

It becomes more difficult, each year, to express the amount of money the PA has raised for the school. Last year I mentioned the word 'phenomenal'. I'm running out of adjectives. In this academic year, over £55,000 was given to the school, although £15,000 was the final payment for the previous year's scheme, i.e. the redevelopment of the Changing Rooms. This means that over £40,000 was given to the school this year, enabling us to exceed our target of raising a minimum of 75% of the £32,766 cost of 'Inter-active Whiteboards' by paying for the whole project in full. We also continued to pay for the various affiliation and membership fees, mini-bus running costs etc. We have, in fact, raised in excess of £169,000 over the last five years, which is a huge achievement. I would like to thank the PA for its hard work and enthusiasm and I would also like to thank all of those parents and those in the local community, who have supported us and made this huge feat possible.

The Fund-raising year started with a Car Boot Sale last September, which attracted 67 Sellers – the highest number we had achieved at that point. Special thanks to those who gave up their Saturdays to assist with both this and the further three Car Boot Sales, which were held in April, June, and July. Julie Melvyn volunteered to organise and run the Car Boots this year and I am eternally grateful. And what an organiser she turned out to be! She tamed even the most ferocious buyers and had them eating out of her hand, to the point where they waited dutifully at the gates of the Tennis Court until she told them they could go in. Amazing. Thank you Julie.

The Autumn Ball was a great success, raising over £2000 for PA Funds. I would like to thank all of those who assisted with the planning, organisation, delivery and clearing up. The Ball always requires a lot of hard work, but we do receive excellent feedback, which makes it all worthwhile. The Committee made the decision to make this a bi-annual event, with the next Ball planned for October 2008.

The PA invested in a new BBQ this year, in preparation for Sports Day, but sadly the event was rained off. This was particularly unfortunate, because for the first time ever, we were going to have an additional Halal BBQ. Special thanks to Mohamed and Farzanij Ghanti, for offering to organise and run the Halal BBQ.

The Christmas Fayre was well attended, as usual. Raffle Ticket Sales were down on last year, but we still managed to raise over £2400. Again, thanks to everyone who helped with this. Parents sent in some fabulous things for us to sell and for the Raffle and in some cases, the demand was greater than the supply! The Tombola sold out in record time. A special mention to Julie Power, who again provided us with wondrous seasonal headgear to wear and Keith Tranter, for once again providing us with seasonal music from his eclectic Christmas CD Collection.

The PA spent several meetings this year, discussing the feasibility of a Car Share Scheme, for parents travelling to the school. It was decided that we would help facilitate Car Sharing, in some way, at the beginning of the next academic year.

In May, I was delighted to announce that Eric Towers, a parent, had offered to assist the PA, by creating a PA Website. This was a project which we had been trying to organise for some time and one which would be most beneficial to parents. The website can be viewed at [www.strs-pa.org.uk](http://www.strs-pa.org.uk) Thank you Eric.

Due to their own increased work demands, our two Uniform Co-ordinators; Sally Crease and Anita Grogan were struggling to make time to co-ordinate the Uniform Sales and feared that unless someone came forward to take on the role, the Uniform Sales would have to be passed to an organisation such as the National Schoolwear Centre. In July, when the Parents of the Sept 07 intake boys came in for the Induction Saturday, I made an appeal for help. Several new parents came forward, specifically to help with/organise Uniform Sales and will be talking to Sally and Anita about the role. I would like to say a special thanks to both of these ladies and their Team and, of course, Jan Brown, for their sheer hard work. We receive so many comments about the professionalism of the highly organised issuing of Uniform, that you should all be extremely proud. In addition, any profit from Uniform Sales remains in house, in the PA Pot, rather than passing to the Retailers. Thank you.

The 100 Club has continued to grow in popularity and has, once again, been quietly and efficiently organised by Julie Power, who, sadly is leaving the PA this year. Julie seems to pop up at every PA Event, always there to help and always smiling. Thanks for everything Julie. We will miss you!

Several other key members of the PA retired this year, including Liz Young, Tony Solomon, and Alison Halliday. We were sad to lose them and wish them well for the future. I would like to say thank you to them all for their hard work and support.

Also in semi-retirement is Paulette Maxted, who has worked tirelessly for the PA for somewhere around 11 years. She has organised the Refreshment Rota for years, which means that we have never had to worry about that side of the events. Everything has been co-ordinated perfectly and she is continuing to mentor her replacements to ensure a seamless handover. Very special thanks are given to Paulette.

Our Gifting Scheme continues to flourish and is the biggest contributor to PA Funds. We are only able to operate this scheme, because its administration is carried out by Bob Burns, the school's Bursar and we are extremely grateful to him for his continued support and also to Keith Tranter, our Treasurer, for his excellent control of the PA purse-strings.

Whilst thanking people for their support this year, there is one very special lady who I haven't mentioned yet. Julie Austin is the school's Administration Secretary and she provides the PA with a huge amount of support. I have to say, that a lot of this is done in her own time, for example, she has carried out Leaflet drops for us, and has attended several of the Car Boots Sales, even offering to help run them. She has endless patience, energy and a fantastic sense of humour. Thank you Julie – you're invaluable.

If I haven't mentioned you personally in this report, please don't feel excluded from my thanks. I'm very proud of Sir Thomas Rich's School's Parents Association and feel honoured to be its Chair. I value each and every one of you and thank you all for the contribution you each make.

My final thanks goes to Mr Kellie and Mr Carter, for once again attending all of the PA meetings and for being so accessible. I truly feel part of this wonderful school, and I thank you for that.

Let us now move on to the Election of Officers....