

Good evening and thank you for taking the time to attend tonight's AGM. I hope to not take up too much time on this report but given the next time I talk to a large number of adults it will be on my wedding day, you'll hopefully forgive me for practising my public speaking on you!

I will start by considering the events the PTA has organised over the last School year:

With respect to the more family-focused events, the PTA has again enjoyed a very successful year. Both Bingo nights were very well attended, especially the first that required the last minute requisitioning of canteen chairs and tables to cater for the demand. To have such high attendance and then run a near identical night, a few months later which was also well attended, was a very encouraging sign.

The Quiz Night was another success which ran smoothly with the additional support of Mrs Waldron and once again congratulations to Mrs Lees' & the Library team for winning, despite being one of the smallest teams.

These events have again been scheduled for this School year, and I hope they will continue to be both enjoyable and profitable.

An additional Quiz sheet was introduced during the summer term, with a theme of book opening lines, and the prize won by Mrs Turner. It is hoped that this will continue with a different theme each term to challenge those grey cells and get more people involved, so watch this space!

Turning to the more student-focused events, the Discos and Film Nights have proved greater challenges. Three Discos were held; the Icebreaker, the Yule Ball and the Party in the Park. A number of film nights have been attempted too, both on Mondays after school and also the showing of 'The Greatest Showman' on one Friday evening and including pizza! With the exception that last event, all have somewhat struggled with turnout. It is shame that we have this issue, especially when you consider that my first form only 4 years ago would routinely turn out to Discos in huge numbers, but I think we have to ultimately accept that events held at people's houses or at 'Loaded' nightclub appear to be a preferable option for the average teenager, especially combined with the inevitable transport issues the school and parents face for evening events due to the nature of the catchment. In short, these events will always remain popular with certain groups, especially Year 7s, but Disco attendances around 75-100 appear to be the new normal. Equally, I believe our ongoing experience with Film Night attendances shows that this is something not worth pursuing once this licence expires.

Once again, the PTA rolled up their sleeves to help at the Spring Fayre by providing a BBQ and refreshments for what has now become an annual and successful School event.

As you have previously heard from the Treasurer, the PTA has raised an amazing amount of money this year of £4783.43.

This has enabled the PTA to support a wide range of departments and activities in the last 12 months:

- MFL department for French/German magazine subscriptions,
- French, German, Spanish & Latin Language Day resources,
- Business Studies for a subscription to the Economist magazine,
- Biology for a digital colorimeter (whatever one of those is!) and A-level resources

- Dictionaries, thesauruses & the Carnegie Award books for the Library,
- online resources for GCSE Music students,

- Y7 lunchtime play equipment

- Outdoor tables & benches AND

- A donation to the School locker replacement fund!

A very wide range of bids from a very wide range of departments, helping to maintain the PTA's high profile within the school. I think it will hardly shock you to learn that the School, like most, is not awash with money at this time and therefore our ongoing support for departments in this way is essential - and as a famous advert reminds us, "every little helps."

Finally (yes, I'll shut up in a second) I want to say thank you to a few people. Given my roles as Chair, bingo caller (when I'm not coming down with food poisoning...) and glamorous assistant for the Quiz, I pop up everywhere, but without the support of all of you nothing would get done. So thank you for helping to staff the bar, buy/donate prizes and generally making me look vaguely competent.

Special, massive, thanks do go to Julian, for helping with technical & IT aspects at various functions and Nikki for her extremely diligent work as Treasurer. And a very justly deserved thank you for Mel, who has been PTA Secretary for a couple of years now, and over the years has helped out with both our PTA and also at the Boys' Grammar. She has decided to stand down from this role as one of her children has already escaped into the wider world, and the other isn't too far behind. Thank you for all you have done both for the PTA and also for me in the last year, and I hope you will continue to help where you can.

On that note, I will now conclude. I have been on the PTA committee for three years and Chair for the last 12 months, and with an ever-present hectic timetable for teaching and the added pressure of a wedding to plan, I will not be seeking re-election as Chair. I do fully intend to continue as Bingo man (as Nikki won't let my understudy back near a microphone ever again!) and to help run the Quiz, but I feel this is an appropriate moment to step back from having such a leading role.

So, to my successor, I wish the best of luck.