

NGHS AGM 2019 Chair's Report

It has been another successful year for the PTA in terms of fundraising and events. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to run events – having lost some committee members in July when their daughters left the school, we are very short of hands-on help to continue our activities. On a positive note, the PTA has continued to benefit from the improved parent communication implemented by Mr. Scott and has built a productive relationship with him – his close involvement adds a lot of value and is much appreciated.

In terms of the PTA's two aims:

1. We have raised a healthy amount of funds to help **improve the student's school experience** – as with last year, these funds have come from a larger number of small, standard events compared to previous years, which seems to be a more sustainable way of operating, given the limited number of helpers. A couple of new people have come forward to offer assistance, but the majority of events rest on the shoulders of the same 2 or 3 people. If the situation continues, we will need to scale back further and rely on low-effort fundraising such as the 100 Club and Easyfundraising, plus a smaller number of tried and tested events and activities which require minimal planning and manpower.
2. Our events have continued to be focused on our second aim – **bringing families, students and teachers closer together**. The PTA Link team, now under the management of Ms Goodall, has continued to be a valuable resource bringing together volunteers from several year groups, particularly the Sixth Form. It remains a good way for the students to get involved in wider school life, and an invaluable support.

Most of the funds raised this year have been towards funding the laser cutter (£3000 so far, £500 remaining), a significant investment in a vital piece of kit. We also donated the funds from the Autumn Music Evening towards transport for the New York music trip. The bulk of the money comes from PTA-led events and activities. This year these have included the following:

- **Quiz Night May 2019** – a regular event with quizmaster Martin Lucy, and fish and chips from Jones's. Great for involving parents from lower down the school in particular.
- **Easter Hamper Raffle April 2019** – this was Alison Birkinshaw's final hamper stint, with Debbie Anderson taking over. Donations from parents were back to previous year's levels thanks to the mufti day when donations were brought. We also switched to a lower cost supplier to print the tickets.
- **Movie Nights (various)** – we have held several successful after-school movie nights for lower-school students this year. The girls enjoy letting their hair down and socialising in the school setting. Our licence has again been renewed so we can continue next year.
- **Centenary Event (July)** – the summer fair was replaced this year by the school's centenary event, at which the PTA ran a vintage tea room in a classroom in the new building. We had many cakes and scones thanks to parents' donations, and attracted a number of old girls, which was lovely.
- **Easy Fundraising (Ongoing)** – take up on this shopping referral portal is slow but steady. This year we have raised another £600, making a total close in excess of £3000 since we started. As per last year, we need to consider ways to boost involvement, particularly in the run up to Christmas. This is a zero-effort activity for us!
- **100 Club (Ongoing)** – Andy Harrison has done a great job of running the 100 Club this year, getting it fully in hand since he took over responsibility. We make every effort at events to encourage new members, but take-up could be a lot higher. The time is right to consider a relaunch with the possibility of a different approach. In the absence of new high-earning events, the PTA is increasingly reliant on regular earners like this and Easyfundraising.

We have also continued to provide refreshments at school events such as music and drama evenings. We are very appreciative for the raffle prizes and cakes parents have donated this year, and to everyone who has come along to our events, but the lack of new people to help plan and run events is a major concern.

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has contributed this year. If you are new to the PTA and wondering whether to get involved, I urge you to take that step and get stuck in! To borrow the quote, "Your PTA Needs You!"

Julie Harris, Chair

18th November 2019