

PTA News

Number 1 June 2010

Chichester
High School
For Girls



Together we aspire
Together we achieve



From the Chair ...

Welcome to the first newsletter of CHSG's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). We hope this newsletter will keep you in touch with what your PTA is doing, and encourage more of you to become involved.

As a charity, our PTA has three key objectives:

- to promote the education of pupils by providing funds to acquire additional educational resources
- to foster extended relationships between the staff, parents and pupils
- to engage in activities which support the school's ethos (Chi High's Got Talent is a good example of this - see page 5).

Fundraising is central to PTA activities. During 2007 we were able to contribute £7,000 towards the new theatre. Then in 2009 the PTA presented the school with £6,000 to cover the cost of the first year of a 3-year lease on a brand new minibus. Many students have benefited from these developments and you can get an idea of how useful the minibus is by reading the article on page 6. Now we are fund raising to support the technical development of the theatre.

We raise money by providing refreshments, running raffles, and selling second hand uniform at school events; holding social and fundraising events; and the Pledge 10 Club where, for an initial outlay of £10, you could win £25 in our monthly draws (see page 7). Our main fund raiser is the ever popular Christmas Fair and we will be holding one again this year.

However, all this is only possible **with help from parents** to run the events. As a parent, you are automatically a member of the PTA and *very welcome* to attend the PTA committee meetings and contribute any ideas for fund raising etc. Details of meetings, including agendas and minutes, are available on the school's web site and can be confirmed by contacting the e-mail address below. However, ***if you are unable to attend the meetings, but are keen to help when you can, we would still love to hear from you!*** See page 3 for other ways in which you might be able to help. There are many benefits to getting involved, some of which are described on page 4, so why not give it a try.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it helpful. Please do send us any comments and suggestions of what else you would like to see in future issues.

Bob Beaney

PTA Chairman

pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk

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Who's Who

Here are the PTA members who have taken on particular roles. If you see any of us at an event or around the school and have any questions or comments, please don't be shy! If you'd like to contact someone in particular, send an e-mail to pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk and it will be forwarded to the person concerned.



Bob Beaney
Chair

Bob chairs the PTA Committee Meetings.



Julie Brombley
Treasurer

Julie takes care of all the funds and finances of the PTA.



Sarah Caffyn
Secretary

Sarah circulates agendas, takes the minutes of committee meetings, and compiles the PTA Newsletter.



Yvonne Brown
Support Co-ordinator

Yvonne organises help for events.



Alan Chapman
Licensing & Supplies Officer

Alan liaises with the Council for licenses to hold events and sell alcohol, and keeps the supply cupboard stocked.



Vanessa Lisle
Pledge 10 Organiser

Vanessa runs the PTA's lottery, known as the Pledge 10 Club.



Karen Mason
Link Governor to the PTA

Karen provides a two way channel of communication between the PTA and the School Governors.

WANTED.....

If anyone would like to donate something for our raffles we'd be very grateful. Donations (toiletries, wine, jars, oils biscuits, etc) can be left in Reception. We hold a raffle at most parent consultation evenings and pupil events — it would be fantastic if we could build up a stock of prizes.

Thank you.

The next PTA Committee Meeting will be held in the School Library at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 7th July**. All parents are warmly invited to attend. The agenda will be e-mailed to anyone whose name is on the PTA Contacts List, or you can download it from the school website a few days before the meeting.

How you can help

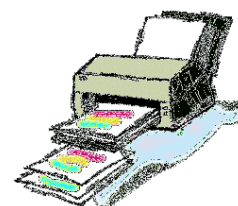


Being an active member of the PTA doesn't just mean attending committee meetings and selling cups of tea at parents' evenings - there are lots of other ways in which you can help the PTA and, in doing so, improve your daughter's school experience.



You could **donate a raffle prize**. Bottles of wine and chocolates are always popular; maybe you're able to offer a voucher for a service (free haircut, meal for two etc) or experience (e.g. boat trip around the harbour).

Do you have a **skill or facility** that we could use? PR or design skills (to help promote special events) for example, or reprographic/printing facilities.



We are very aware that as CHSG draws students from such a wide area, many parents live too far away to attend easily events at school. That's why we're encouraging parents to **set up satellite groups to raise funds locally**. It doesn't have to be anything formal. For example, a few parents in an outlying village might get together to organise a one-off event such as a bar-beque or barn dance. If you're interested in forming a satellite group, or finding out if someone else in your area is, contact the PTA.

Here are a few more ways in which you can help raise funds with minimal cost and effort to yourself!

- **Join the Pledge 10 Club** and for an annual outlay of £10 you could win £25 in the monthly draws (see page 7 for more details).



- **Donate second hand uniform** to be sold at school events - just hand it in at Pupil Reception. All proceeds go to PTA funds.

- **Shop via thegivingmachine.co.uk** when you make on-line purchases from any of hundreds of participating companies. See page 8 for how this works.



Last but not least, if you don't have much time available but may occasionally be able to help out for an hour or two at an event by selling refreshments or raffle tickets, please **add your name to the Helpers List**. To do this, e-mail your contact details to pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk.

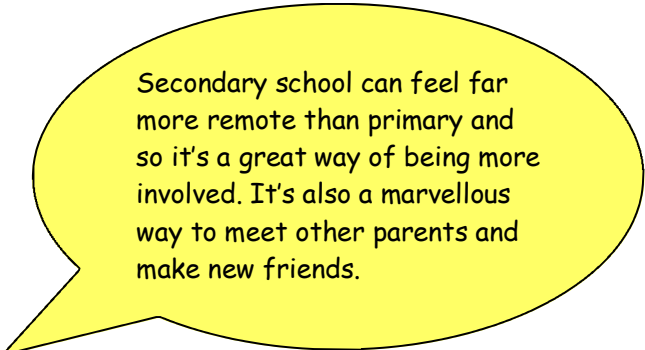


What's in it for me?

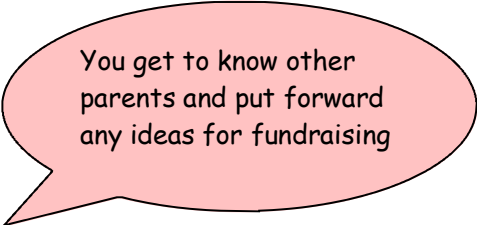
When you hear the letters PTA, what's your reaction? Do your eyes glaze over? Are you flooded with memories of tedious meetings and dusty jumble sales? Do you quickly summon a hundred reasons why you can't possibly get involved?

Well, if PTA is preceded by CHSG you need to think again. Our meetings are productive and sociable (the working group organising an event for the autumn meets in a pub). And since March, a new, regular item has been added to the agenda: Quick Questions, Slow Answers. Any parent at the meeting can ask Head Teacher Fiona Oliver-Watkins a question and get an answer on the spot!

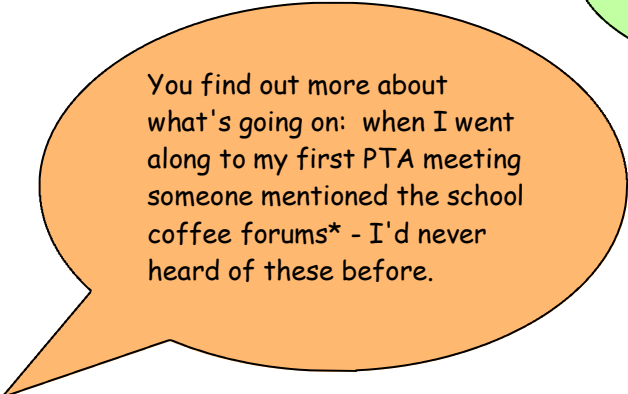
We asked some parents currently active in the PTA what they get out of their involvement...



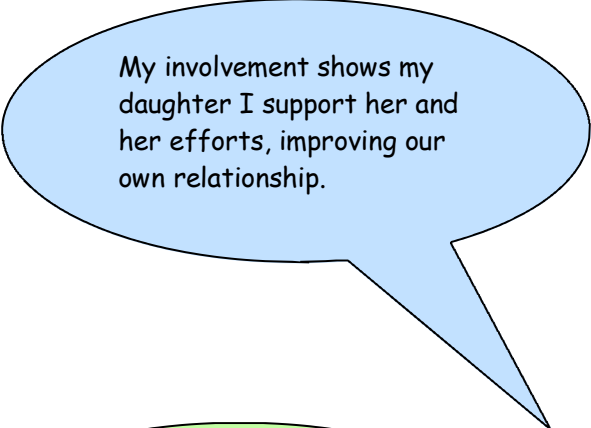
Secondary school can feel far more remote than primary and so it's a great way of being more involved. It's also a marvellous way to meet other parents and make new friends.



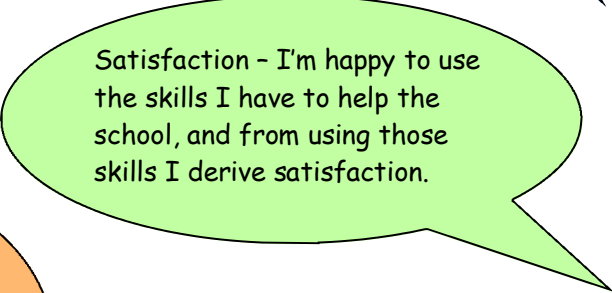
You get to know other parents and put forward any ideas for fundraising



You find out more about what's going on: when I went along to my first PTA meeting someone mentioned the school coffee forums* - I'd never heard of these before.



My involvement shows my daughter I support her and her efforts, improving our own relationship.



Satisfaction - I'm happy to use the skills I have to help the school, and from using those skills I derive satisfaction.

*Each term the school holds a coffee forum, open to all parents. Refreshments are provided and parents are able to meet informally with members of the senior management team to ask questions, discuss issues, etc.

A chance to shine...

In January the PTA held a talent contest, giving girls an opportunity to audition and, if successful, to perform in the Centenary Theatre in front of a packed house.



Chi High's Got Talent caught the imagination of girls throughout the school. More than 120 pupils took part in the auditions, with all the year groups from Y7 to Y10 represented, and a 'special' year 11 group was invited to perform whilst the judges were deliberating.

The original line up of 50 acts was whittled down through two sets of auditions to 18 acts which went on to provide a hugely entertaining evening to a sell-out audience. The process revealed the vast well of talent in the school across a wide range of accomplishments including singing; dancing - from Scot-



tish to tap and modern; instrumentalists playing the piano, saxophone, flute and drums; there was even a comedienne and cheer leaders. Girls performed solos, duets, and in groups.

The winning act was singing duo Kate Bennett and Darcy Cunningham-Stockdale. Comedienne Lauren Lockyear came second, and third place went to dance group Shizam.

This event proved so popular that the PTA is going to organise another talent show, in Spring 2011.

The winners: singing duo Kate Bennett and Darcy Cunningham-Stockdale

Working groups

The PTA has several working groups on the go. Working groups are set up as needed, to focus on key events and particular issues. They usually comprise a leader plus three or four others. The group decides how it wants to operate (for example, when and where to meet) and reports progress back to the main committee via a short report circulated with the committee meeting agenda.

There are currently working groups on the following:

Gardeners' Questions & Answers event

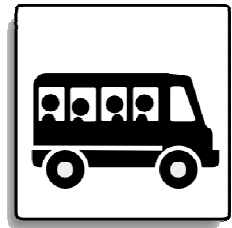
PTA web pages

Christmas Fair

Travelling Trends event

If you would like to join a working group, please send an e-mail to pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk indicating which group you are interested in.

A year in the life of ... the minibus



It's now just over a year since the school took delivery of a brand new minibus. The PTA's donation of £6,000 covered the cost of the first year's lease, and the minibus is now self-financing - when anyone uses it the cost is charged to their department, or is included in the visit fee. The minibus is also hired by other schools, the Youth Wing and the CCF.

During the last twelve months the minibus has covered nearly 3,000 miles. The shortest recorded journey is just one mile into Chichester; the longest is a 190 mile round trip to Radstock in Somerset.

The school is very keen to ensure that money raised by the PTA is spent on things that bring benefits across the school, rather than on items specific to a particular department. The minibus has certainly fulfilled this criterion during its first year, having been used by many departments including PE, Art, Maths, Science, Textiles, CDT, PSVE and XL.



The Pledge 10 Club

If you're not already a member of the Pledge 10 Club, please read on...



The Pledge 10 Club combines fundraising with the excitement of a lottery. For an annual outlay of just £10, you could win £25 in our monthly prize draw from October to June, with a £75 bonus draw held in July (subject to a minimum of 30 members). In this, the school's centenary year, we are aiming to recruit 100 members. The funds raised in this way are shared between prize money and funding school projects. Recent lucky winners include Alan Chapman, Mary Atkinson and Michaela Lamb.

Join today by completing a membership form available from school or downloaded from the PTA link on the school's website (go to Parents → PTA → Pledge 10 Club Membership Form) and return to PTA c/o Finance Office, CHSG, Kingsham Rd, Chichester PO19 8EB.

We've extended this opportunity to friends and relatives of CHSG parents - maybe a Pledge 10 membership could solve the 'what to get Granny for her birthday' dilemma!

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Social networking site for CHSG parents

What? Where? Why? How? Who?

Do you have a question you think another parent might be able to answer? If so, why not log on to:

http://www.netmums.com/group/Chichester_High_School_for_Girls.2840

This 'virtual school gate' provides a forum where parents can discuss and share information and advice with each other covering a wide range of topics (e.g. uniform, bullying, homework, pocket money). Topics of recent posts include school bags, mobile phones and school communication.

The site was set up last September by the parenting website *netmums.com*, as part of a government supported initiative to establish social networking sites for parents of every secondary school in the country. We think it's an excellent idea and could be really useful for us parents. However, for it to work we need as many parents as possible to register and use the site.

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Calling all green-fingered parents!



Here's your chance to ask a panel of experts, chaired by Mr John Humphries, retired Head Gardener of Sutton Place, Surrey, about that gardening problem you've been grappling with.

Gardeners' Questions & Answers

Friday 15th October
6.30 – 9.00 pm

The evening will be divided into two parts. From 6.30 pm you'll be able to visit our 'garden market' in the main Sports Hall. There will be stall holders from a selection of high quality local nurseries, and you can enjoy some nibbles with a glass of wine, or soft/hot drink. Then we'll move across to the Centenary Theatre for the Question and Answer session. Questions may be submitted in advance or handed in on arrival at 6.30 pm.

Tickets are only £6.00, and this includes your first drink.

For more information, or to buy your ticket, please contact Sally Gutowski-Smith tel: 01243 811398 e-mail: sallyphoenix@btinternet.com.

Please note: admission to this event is by pre-purchased ticket only.

The Giving Machine

You can now generate free cash donations for Chichester High School for Girls every time you shop online.

It will not cost you anything extra - the online shop pays the donation on your behalf. Just go to www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk:

- JOIN as a shopper/giver
- CHOOSE to support Chichester High School for Girls
- REMEMBER to shop at TheGivingMachine every time you buy online!

You'll find more than 100 different shops at TheGivingMachine™ including all your favourite high street names.



TheGivingMachine™ You Shop, They Give

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 7 th July	PTA Committee Meeting (School Library, 7.30 pm)
Wednesday 22 nd September	PTA Committee Meeting (School Library, 7.30 pm)
Friday 15 th October	Gardeners' Questions and Answers
Wednesday 3 rd November	PTA AGM & Committee Meeting (School Library, note 7.00 pm start)
Friday 3 rd December	Christmas Fair