

BMSPA Chair's Report September 2019

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting

The Aims of the Parents' Association include:

- *Facilitating social interaction between parents and, where appropriate, between parents, governors and staff*
- *Supporting the provision of information to parents*
- *Engaging in activities which support and advance the education and experience of students*
- *Providing funding for equipment and facilities which might not otherwise be available*

This report details the work of the BMS Parents' Association for the period September 2018 to September 2019.

This has been my first year in the PA and my first year acting as temporary Chair. I have enjoyed working with a fantastic team who give their time and energy so that both students and parents may benefit.

I'd like to thank the school and the Committee for entrusting me with the position of temporary Chair of the BMS Parent's Association over the last 10-11 months and also to the Committee for their support during this time.

Special thanks go to Wendy Dooley (Deputy Chair), Claire Carpenter (Secretary), Bee DuPlessis (Social Secretary) and Jonathan Doherty (Treasurer) for their support and also to Becky Bygraves and her team for their tireless work with the Newly New Shop. I'm grateful to the ongoing support and guidance of Mr Tate and the school's Leadership and administration teams.

During this period, we have had a couple of key long-standing members leave the Committee due to their other commitments. We thank Siobhan Barnes and Sarah Masih for the time they have given the BMSPA over many years. Siobhan was a key organiser of the successful 2018 Summer Ball and we look to build on that experience for the 2020 Summer Ball.

There are two upcoming major funding activities, with the Junior School trim trail and the provision of additional indoor cricket nets. We look forward to working closely with the school community to identify future opportunities for support.

During the last year, we have seen a number of things progress:

- An increased emphasis on providing social events for parents, with a particular focus on welcoming parents of new students. This has been done through support to Open Evenings, a Welcome Breakfast event for new Junior School parents, upcoming Gin and Jazz social event.

- BMSPA events have had mixed results. The initiative for a Golf Day failed to gain sufficient take-up and was cancelled. The upcoming Gin and Jazz evening has proved to be very popular with tickets sold out and a waiting list in place. The Junior School disco and Christmas Shop were great successes as always.
- An online parents' survey was completed. Whilst a relatively small uptake compared to school population, the survey presented some interesting feedback from parents. The survey reinforced objectives for the PA moving forward. The full report has been circulated to committee and ex officio members.
- The Newly New Shop continues to thrive with increased turnover and profit. Electronic payment is now up and running and is already proving a success with parents.
- The 500 club membership was down over the year but a recent push has seen numbers now exceed where we were 12 months ago.
- Support for other BMSPA activities such as refreshments at productions has proven to be challenging to manage, but support activities such as these provide good income and a valuable service to the school.
- Significant effort has gone in to finding more volunteers to assist the PA, particularly from the new parents' community. This has been successful, and the volunteer bank has significantly increased. We welcome these new additions to the PA network and hope to welcome others in the future.

Over the coming period, we need to build on recent work to increase the profile, activities and support offered by the PA. I recognise that we all have busy lives and am keen that our committee and bank of volunteer works well to spread the load but that we all gain an enjoyment and satisfaction from our success.

It feels like an exciting time for the Parents' Association with a renewed vigour to reinforce the school community with a strong emphasis on supporting the parents as well as the students. So a word of appreciation to everyone involved in the PA this year. Your energy and enthusiasm are what will continue to strengthen the Parents' Association. We look forward to 2019-20.

Gordon Dickman, Chair BMSPA