



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Parents Association (PA)

PA Meeting Notes

17th September 2018
The Hive

1. Welcome

Mark Abbott – Co. Chair Sam Khan – Events Coordinator Caroline Moore
Richard White – Co. Chair / Treasurer Sally Lugg – Comms Officer Elizabeth Mitchell
Georgina Southgate - Comms Officer
Dave Goodwin – Head of 6th Form Brian Davies - Dev Director and Deputy Director of Sport

New Parents

Jayne & Paul Blackburn; Kam Toora; Kavita & Amish Dudhia; Becky Moyles; Jenny Gregory; Juliet Sweeney; Claire Cartwright; Sarah Ayto; Karen Hubbard; Kate Barnes; Liz Brennan; James Shelley Jide Sonuga

2. Apologies

Maxine Hanley – Co. Chair Felicity McCabe Julia Vanloon

3. Declaration of Interest

None

4. Matters arising

- Mark Abbott (MA) welcomed all the returning members of the Parents Association and was especially delighted to see 15 new parents attending the PA for the first time. He thanked them for taking the time to come along to the meeting and was looking forward to an exciting year ahead for both the School and the PA.
- Briefly MA introduced himself as Co. Chair of the PA and then invited all members present to introduce themselves including their son's, and where appropriate for year 12 their daughter's, name and house.
- Dave Goodwin and Brian Davies also introduced themselves. Dave is our excellent link to the school and its senior team, always good to get the inside track on things.
- Brian Davies explained his role as Development Director linking local business and the Alumni to the school and highlighted forthcoming events: Ladies Lunch; Golf Day; Sports Evening and Careers Day.

- To give broader context MA explained the role of the PA in both raising funds for the school, in these austere times, and as importantly promoting the Vesey's Community, helping parents get to know each other informally.

5. Treasurer's Report

- RW told the meeting that currently the PA had £4,118.28 in the account.
- MA added that there was £3,371 in the 200 Club account, more on that later.
- RW then reminded the committee that the PA had agreed to fund £25,000 over 5 years for the Growing Vesey Growing Minds campaign that led to the Stem Block being built. This year was the 4th year of providing £5,000 with one further year to go in 2019.

6. Constitution

RW informed the group that at the AGM we would be discussing the constitution to ensure we were following the most up to date rules from the Charities Commission.

7. 50/50 Club

MA told the group that the PA were launching a 50/50 Club to raise funds for the school. This was to replace the 200 Club which had been run for a number of years and would be monthly prize draw with half the money raised each month as a prize and the other half going to the PA funds. An example of the application form was given out for all to see and the majority of attendees had seen this type of draw before in their schools.

8. Events

2018/9 academic year was already busy with the following events pencilled in:

- Welcome Curry Night: 18th October at the Bhujon Restaurant Mere Green
- Year 7/8 Discos Dates: 09 Nov 18; 18th Jan 19; 5th Apr 19; 21 Jun 19 – *Sam explained that this was a joint venture with Sutton Girls and has been well attended raising over £1k*
- Comedy Night: 8th Feb 19
- Quiz Night: 22nd Mar 19
- Race Night: 17th May 19
- Summer Party 13th Jul 19

MA also asked the committee for any new ideas for events. It was always good to keep these fresh and so anyone who has seen a successful event either at a school or other activity then please let the PA know and we can discuss this at the next meeting.

How Can You Help?

The Parents Association is run by a number of parents like yourselves who spare some time to organise and run events to raise funds for your child's school. You can help in a number of ways:

- **Help out a one of the school discos – simply choose a date and let me know**
- **Support one of the events – drop me an email letting me know which you can support**
- **Organise one of the events along with a committee member – just let me know**

9. Annual General Meeting

A revised date of 22nd October has been agreed with the school to hold the PA AGM. This meeting will be held ahead of the normal PA meeting and will be an opportunity for parents to volunteer for a role within the PA (see information attached).

These roles cover a range of posts some attending the monthly PA meetings and others supporting activities as they arise. Even if you can only spare a few hours and support one activity during the year that would be much appreciated by the PA and the school.

Nominations for positions listed below should be submitted to mark.c.abbot01@gmail.com by Friday 19th October.

10. BVGS Matter

DG agreed that it was going to be a busy year for the school and looked forward to the PA being a pivotal part of the Vesey's community.

11. AOB

- Rugby Refreshments – following Brian Davies' earlier discussion any support on Saturday mornings to serve refreshments to parents at the Pavilion would be appreciated. Please contact Mr Whiting at the school if you are able to support.
- Georgina Southgate also asked the meeting for helpers to continue the sterling work that Maxine Handley had started last year in revamping the sports Pavilion. Anyone interested then please let the PA know.
- WhatsApp group – Sally Lugg mentioned that last year a number of parents joined a Year 7 WhatsApp group and found it very useful as a means keeping in touch and a valuable source of information. SL asked if any of this group wanted to create a WhatsApp group? She circulated a list for people to add their names and offered to create the group to get it moving.

Sarah Ayto made a good point that social media could be misused by people and that all should be aware of this. A member of the group responded that an open Facebook page could be vulnerable to abuse. MA responded that the PA do not have a Facebook page, partly for that reason and that the WhatsApp was only open to parents.

Action: MA to contact Dominic Robson and ask if he could issue a note out to parents about the responsible use of social media.

- Easyfundraising was also discussed. This is a fantastic way to raise funds for the school from your armchair via laptop, tablet or phone. Easyfundraising works where by accessing a huge number of shopping websites eg John Lewis, M&S, via the Easyfundraising browser. It does not cost you a penny extra, and a small donation is given to the PA. All you have to do is go to the website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>, and follow instructions.
- RW told the members about the BVGS sports scarves. This was his initiative a few years ago to both raise money for the school and to help generate community spirit at sports events. By having scarves for parents it enabled those attending matches to recognise other parents and show support for our teams. Anyone wanting to sell these scarves at sports events to contact RW.