



The Whitgift School Parents' Association (WSPA) Report – November 2015

The WSPA has had a successful year since the last AGM in November 2014. There have been several events which parents have enjoyed attending with the highlight of the year being the Midsummer Ball in June 2015. The Sports Hall, already set up for the Leavers' Ball the previous night, was host to a great evening which included Whitgift's Jazz Band, a casino, iBid auction, great food and further live music later in the evening. Around 200 parents and staff were present and the event was supported by the Headmaster. Mrs Frances Robinson and Mrs Tracy Lee were in charge of the event and many committee members teamed together to decorate the venue and help to run the evening. All WSPA members should be congratulated for a fantastic event which was thoroughly enjoyed by parents and friends of the School.

WSPA members have again supported the Open Morning and Open Evening where they assisted with the Admissions desk and greeted and spoke to prospective parents. Whitgift parents have also helped with Library and other school events. Our thanks go to all parents who assist in these different ways which benefit other parents and the pupils.

The WSPA Second Hand Uniform sales have been particularly successful recently with profits at each sale regularly reaching over £1,200. Mrs Kim Baptiste and her team have done a wonderful job and this has been greatly appreciated by parents. The profits from these sales make a major contribution to the WSPA funds as well as providing our current parents with low-cost uniform and kit.

The WSPA Working Group Committee have already met twice this term to discuss events for the academic year 2015-16 and the Committee are pleased to welcome some new parents who are keen to be involved with the WSPA, particularly in assisting at events. We ran the very popular Quiz Night in October and we must thank Mrs Shirley Carpenter, Mrs Karoline Baird and their team for organising this event, which continues to be an excellent way to welcome new parents to the School and the WSPA. We are expecting to run another Summer Ball in June and we are sure this will be a superb evening. The WSPA is working hard to consider an appropriate range of events for parents and I am sure we will have many more excellent events going forward.

WSPA funds are in a healthy position and funds currently stand at approximately £20,000. We are now considering the possible options for a donation to the School this academic year. I would like to thank the Acting Treasurer, Mrs Alison Anderson, for all her help in managing the accounts since and for preparing the details for the AGM.

The School is very grateful to the Working Group Committee for their time, organisation and good humour. They are a strong team and the AGM is an ideal opportunity to thank them for their support. I am aware that some of our current Committee members have expressed a desire to step down from the activities of the Committee as their boys get older and have exam pressures ahead of them. With this in mind, if there are any parents who would like to be involved with the WSPA, please do come and join us. If you can spare even a small amount of time, it is always gratefully received. The search for a parent-Chair of the Association continues and I hope that parents will continue to offer their support and become Officers of the WSPA in the future.