

WATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM JANUARY 2010
CHAIR'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to our AGM where I plan to review and celebrate the PA's achievements during the year January to December 2009.

It only seems a short while since I was elected as Chair, but that was 12 months ago and what a lot has happened in that time. Given the economic climate the PA has had an amazing year raising funds on behalf of the school. We have run numerous events thanks to the dedicated support of each and every one of you.... giving your ideas, time and energy.

The Quiz night in April was once again a triumphant success and seems to go from strength to strength each year. Many thanks to SF and her team for coordinating this.

The catwalk came to Watford in October and we held a fun and profitable Fashion show...so much so that it is to be repeated in March this year. Our thanks go again to SF and her team, especially MB who was brave enough to "strutt her stuff".

The Christmas Fair and Grand Raffle was our fundraising highlight of the year and we were especially lucky to have our own "home grown" soap star Rita Simons aka Roxy Mitchell on board. I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way at these events; your contribution is important and valued.

The response to the parentmail request for Grand Raffle prizes demonstrated the generosity and support of parents. For example, we have just run our first on-line Auction for a holiday to Turkey, which was kindly donated by a parent of the school – again showing extreme generosity and initiative from parents.

It goes without saying that fundraising activities take time, effort, energy and commitment. The teamwork and friendly, positive atmosphere at our meetings and events is a reflection of our passion for our daughters and all the girls here. I hope that parents will continue to support our fundraising activities which play such a vital role in the life of the school.

The PA continue to maintain a very strong presence at the New Year 7 functions and this is wonderful as it is from there that we recruit our new members. I am greatly encouraged by the number of new members who have joined us since September and made such a significant contribution to the PA...Thank you.

One of the initiatives taken forward this year was the PA website. Many thanks to JMacF for creating and updating the original PA website when it was apparent that a website would be greatly beneficial. In September, we "became as one" with the school website, having our own pages directly incorporated within it. I would like to extend my personal thanks to FR and AM for their help and perseverance regarding this. It was, and still is, a steep learning curve for me but I think I am winning!

2009 saw the Opening of The Maths Block, and one of Helen's dreams for the school came to fruition. The time scale from the first spade in the ground at the Gala Dig to the Celebratory Opening was 12 months....quite an achievement! The PA look forward to helping her other dreams come true.

A PA does not run itself and I would like to thank our Secretary, SM, for her tireless work and efforts to ensure that we do run smoothly. Additional thanks go to Hilary and Maggie for running and organising Northbrook, and again to SM for coordinating the Christmas Pudding sales.

My thanks also go to SA and SJe. Sadly SA will be resigning her position as Treasurer this year. She has been our valued Treasurer for a number of years and although she is standing down in this role, she has promised to continue to help at events. We pass on our thanks to her for all her time and commitment as Treasurer. Nominations and election of the new Treasurer will take place after SA's report.

Selva too will unfortunately be standing down as the 100 club coordinator due to work and travel commitments. Our thanks go to him for the organisation, time and commitment he has given to this role. He leaves the 100 club but not the PA on the understanding that he will still be “very much around!” JM has kindly offered to take over the 100 club from SJe ... thank you Julia.

My final thanks go to the school; to the supportive teachers, office and site staff and not least to HH and SJ, who not only attend the PA meetings but also give us their support, encouragement and assistance, and value the contribution we make to the life of the school.

As I come to the end of my first year as Chair of WGGGS PA I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of it. If I haven't mentioned you personally in this report, please don't feel excluded from my thanks. I am proud of the WGGGS Parents' Association and feel honoured to be its Chair. I value each and every one of you and thank you all for the contribution you each make. I hope we all continue to have a happy and rewarding year, learning new skills and making new friends.

Thank you

TB
Chair