

Merchant Taylors' Schools Parents Association

Minutes of the 72nd meeting of the Parents' Association
Tuesday 11th January 2011

Present:

Staff:

Mr D Cook Mrs L Rogers
Michaela Riches

Parents:

Sui Chan Catherine Cheung
Fiona Cottam Clare Gilby
Vicky Harrocks Nicky Johnson
Jill Laverty Rupert Maitland-Titterton
Catherine Nichols Claire Porteous
Joanne Powell

1. Apologises:

Alison Cave Chris Crosbie
Bernie Neale

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Presidents Report;

Claire reported on the last busy term that started with the junior school cake sale and coffee morning in aid of Macmillan, the coffee morning was enjoyed by those who attended and the idea was raised with Mrs Thomas about organising a coffee morning each term as a social event and to raise funds for various charities.

The Music, mulled wine and mince pies evening was wonderful as always, music from juniors, seniors and staff musicians and choirs performing to a packed out Williams Hall. Many congratulations to Mr Holroyd and Mr Crawford for another super evening.

Nicole Smith and her boys left the school at the end of last term and some of the parents' association attended a lunch as a farewell where she was presented with flowers and a gift from the PA, Nicole sent a 'Thank you' note to the Parents' Association thanking the committee for the gifts.

4. Treasurers Report;

Clare reported that the accounts balances stand at £3206.00. There was very little expenditure last term.

5. Sub-Committee Reports;

Careers - Clare gave a brief report on the joint schools careers event. It was well attended and organised.

Music - Aforementioned music, mulled wine and mince pies concert was commented upon by Rupert, he said that he really enjoyed the evening and that even if your child was not involved, he felt it was a wonderfully enjoyable event and well worth attending.

Drama - The following report was provided by the drama representative, Vicky Harrocks:

November 2010 MTS Jesus Christ Superstar

Jesus Christ Superstar is a rock opera by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber which was controversial when it debuted in 1971. The musical has endured, it is based on the greatest drama of all time -- the last week of Jesus Christ's life and is set to classic rock music.

Personally it's my all time favourite musical and so I was delighted when I heard that MTS were staging a production.

The actors drew us deeply into the show with powerful and poignant performances. Jack Prince provided the most interesting characterization as Judas, the deeply conflicted betrayer of Christ. Jack dramatically portrayed Judas' anger and confusion in this believable and powerful performance. Mary Magdalene was passionately performed by Annabel Fox who has a gorgeous voice and played her character with great maturity. The staging was starkly powerful, especially in the scene where Jesus is tied by the wrists and whipped. Alex Roberts as Jesus, delivered an emotional and intelligent performance. Amid the darkness, the glitzy, vaudeville-style "King Herod's Song" provided fun relief and was well performed by James Hinton-Lever who was perfectly cast into this role. Karl Rawsthorne played a dramatic and convincing Pilate.

This MTS and MTGS collaboration was a stunning success. It was one of the best staged musicals I have seen yet at Merchant Taylors. Well cast, well choreographed, well staged and powerfully sung.

Nearly New Uniform - Claire reported in her Presidents report that the newly named 'Nearly New Uniform' sale went 'ok' - unfortunately very few

parents received the letters. £68.10 was raised and it was felt by the organisers, Claire and Sui, that it was a good trail run for future sales in terms of set-up and organisation. The new letter produced with Michaela's help is fresh and informative but in future we really do need to get the communication out more effectively both to advertise sales and get new stock in.

Continuing on the subject of uniform, Cathy reported that we did a huge cull of unsaleable stock and donated 10 bin bags full of uniform to a parent, Maura O'Donnell, who was sending a container of clothing to Uganda. Maura has since sent a 'thank you' letter to the Parents' Association conveying her appreciation.

Ideas were discussed for future sales and Joanne suggested a 'Recycle Week' when parents are encouraged to sort and donate old uniform. Mr Cook added that we could involve the School Council in the organisation.

Rugby - Claire gave a brief report of mainly wins for under 16s and a great season in general.

Hockey - No report

Cricket - Mr Cook reported that the school have purchased new kit for all the 'A' teams in preparation for the season.

Boat Club - Catherine gave a report on the progress of the boat club who had a great season. Congratulations to the boys and girls and to Martin Chandler for his coaching.

Old Boys - Recently the Oxford and Edinburgh Dinners took place with representatives from the school attending. There is to be a Crosby Dinner here at the Boy's School to be held in the Library on 4th February. In June 2011 another dinner is taking place in New York.

6. Matters arising;

Joanne Powell raised the issue of the junior school team kits, although the actual kits are provided there is no official track suit top or fleece in the winter. As Joanne said, it reflects on the school when the opposing team are dressed so neatly and our boys are all in a muddle of attire. Mr Cook suggested that Joanne speak to Mrs Thomas or Mr Youngson at the Junior school and that the school could possibly fund tops (perhaps with a donation from the Parents' Association.)

A letter requesting some funding was received from Iain Baines, who is Lower Sixth Form student, who is planning a career in Medicine and has the opportunity to join a medical team on a working trip in rural Nepal. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. International Nepal Fellowship (INF) is a Christian mission that has been working in Nepal for over 50 years providing healthcare for the poorest members of that society. The surgical programme was formerly based at a hospital in Pokhara but some 15 years ago it became apparent that many of the population were unable to access that facility because, being subsistence farmers, they were unable to leave their villages for any length of time. It was then that the 'Camps' programme was set up to take surgical healthcare into rural areas where it was needed. Iain is going to join one of these camps to help the programme with its work.

He is going to be working alongside a final year medical student from Oxford so hopes it will help him gain insight into the life of a medical professional as well as experience the challenges faced by healthcare workers in other cultures.

The letter was read out in full and it was noted that it was a well-written letter and a fabulous opportunity for Iain. The letter was discussed by the meeting and an offer of £100 funding was agreed upon. Mr Cook mentioned that he would offer advice to Iain and encourage some of his peers to assist in further fundraising.

7. Events;

This term is relatively quiet in regard to functions in which PA is involved. Claire drew everyone's attention to the CCF Inspection Day early next term, 6th May. There is usually a marquee in which we serve refreshments for the guests and plenty of help is required from approximately 1pm until the end which normally coincides with the end of school and is convenient for pick-up. Anyone who could offer assistance please contact Claire Porteous.

Date and time of next meeting; Tuesday 3rd May 2011.

Cathy Cheung
Secretary
January 2011