

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ST OLAVE'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2015

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| Present: | Aydin Önaç | President |
| | Dinta Madlani | Outgoing Chair |
| | Debbie Hills | Vice Chair and Incoming Chair |
| | Charlotte Rutter | Incoming Vice Chair |
| | Amit Singh | Treasurer |
| | Mukesh Soni | Assistant Secretary |
| | Hai-Ying Song | Independent Examiner of Accounts |
| | Ravi Savur | Secretary |
| | Tiffany Barradell | |
| | Moneesha Bhargava | |
| | Deepali Choudhary | |
| | Meenakshi Deshmukh | |
| | Saurabh Deshmukh | |
| | Jennifer Franks | |
| | Ana Hughes | |
| | Sue Isaac | |
| | Lakshmi Kandala | |
| | Lin Limbrey | |
| | Gauri Mehra | |
| | Joshina Mehta | |
| | Rachael Peek | |
| | Irina Richardson | |
| | Jackie Roberts | |
| | Seema Singh | |
| | Wendy Smith | |
| | Shubhra Tripathi | |
| | Shelly Tse | |
| | Jim Ward | |
| | Nick White | |

Apologies for absence: Catherine Fleet; Narinder Gill, Marianne March-Nealon, Esmat Pourjam, Sunita Sahu, Kim Whitelaw

The **Minutes of the General Meeting of the Association** held on Monday 3 November 2014 were circulated and approved.

Chair's Report

[Note: the formal script below was delivered slightly differently during the meeting]

Dear members of the PA, parents and teachers,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Chairperson's report for St Olave's PA for the 2014-2015 academic year.

It has been an exceptional two years for me as Chair. I have met some great people and done some great projects. Firstly I would like to thank all of you for the support that you have given the PA. It's amazing how much energy and drive comes from the team and this is reflected in the funds that were raised. It's always uplifting when you see the final figure. It's also gratifying that the teachers are benefiting as well as the students. It makes their life a lot more fruitful when they have the right equipment to work with.

The events done this year have been again very lucrative. I would like to thank a few people in particular that would otherwise have made the events a lot more difficult. Nick White is our art person. He does an extraordinary job producing posters with little information and produces forms too, such as for the Ball, amazing!

There are also a few unsung heroes in our midst who continually help in the evening events and at other times: Ana, Eileen Donovan, Sunita Sahu, Shelley, Gauri, Seema Ujdodal, Rebecca Dudley, Janet Rogerson, Chris Florida and not forgetting Jennifer and Allan of course

These people are in the background and they help with smiles on their face. I thank all of you and want to say that without these little offers of help we couldn't do what we do and the school in turn is represented in a welcoming way

I always seem to get people approach me asking how does it work here? How do you get the help. How is so much money raised? I think you can all guess what my answer is to that. It's the people - you all make it work and in turn we get the enthusiasm generated and the rest is here.

A few projects that I would like to mention: First the Spring Ball. Lin and Ingrid do a fantastic job year after year tirelessly and with great effort and pride. Thanks for this girls you will be a hard act to follow.

Quiz Night we have again the usual helpers but also in particular Mr Budds our Quiz Master makes the night interesting with his amazing questions.

The raffle has in particular done really well. Debbie my Vice Chair did a wonderful thing by starting to send the tickets home and this in turn, gave parents a chance to buy them instead of finding them at the end of their boys bag when it's too late. Let's face it we have all been there even me being the Chair!

Second hand uniform sale. Great effort with lots of funds raised and is a win-win for parents and the school. Wendy has done a great handover to Rachel who has made us proud. Thank you.

Form reps. Catherine unfortunately can't be here but I would like to acknowledge her in all her good work in picking up a broken system and creating a process where parents have a voice. Charlotte has been handed over the role who has taken it on very well indeed.

I would just like to finally say that I have had a great time leading the PA and I wish my successor all the best.

Thanks also to Debbie, my vice chair who I saw really as a co-chair and we have worked really well together. Ravi, for being a great Secretary, and Amit for being an excellent Treasurer, facing a few challenges.

Very lastly, I would like to thank Mr Evans to being such an excellent representative of the school in our meetings. We wouldn't have done so much if it hadn't especially been for him

Thank you all

President's Report

[Note: this formal script below may have been delivered slightly differently during the meeting]

Chairman, parents; it is a pleasure to join you at this annual AGM as we reflect on another excellent school year. We are fortunate to be incredibly well supported by you, the parents, so that we can be forward looking whilst still sustaining traditions of this ancient establishment.

The landscape ahead is dominated by two external factors over which we have little control: curriculum/examination changes and the seemingly endless funding reductions. From the numerous head teacher meetings which I attend it has become clear that we are already well ahead of most in our planning for curriculum change, both at GCSE and A level. Thanks to generous support from parents and a number of successful bids like the PLASMA-T and SCHOLA projects, we have survived the funding pressures of the last 3 years, even managing to build 2 stunning new science labs; and, you may rest assured that nothing will derail the relentless pursuit of scholarship and excellence at St Olave's Grammar school.

This is a time of considerable pressure for young people, both socially and academically. We need to build on our excellent values system to guide our students carefully through the safe use of electronic communications and social media, which bring both positive influences, as well as potential dangers.

This is also a time of considerable political pressure on schools like ours to find ways of enabling more children to take advantage of a selective education and to champion upward mobility for youngsters from areas of social disadvantage. Such children often achieve less well at Primary school and may not have the same access to positive educational influences and aspirations from their families and communities. However, this is an important challenge and one that we should embrace with enthusiasm.

The scholarship agenda has continued to go from strength to strength, with impressive articles published in the many student journals, high quality EPQ, HPQ & LPQ projects, play scripts and musical compositions. Where else would you find a Natural Sciences Society Journal, researched, written and edited entirely by the students, with fascinating articles such as: Saturn's moons, Autoclave sterilisation, the RuBISCO enzyme and the secret of tortoiseshell felines?

As we played host to 21 visitors from our partner school La Martiniere, Kolkata, it was a pleasure to see more outlets for, and celebrations of, the growing cultural diversity in the school. Our new team of International Student Ambassadors will be seeking to add to our portfolio of British Council links, more countries with different perspectives, perhaps in Africa or Asia or, I was going to say the Middle East, but perhaps not right now.

Having a good understanding of global issues in a rapidly changing world, and developing a positive vision for what the future holds, is the part that I find really exciting. The 21st century is going to be amazing, so much so that there will be changes we cannot even imagine today. And what better springboard from which to set out on a remarkable journey into this unknown, than an education at one of the nation's most prestigious Grammar schools, within the context of London, the world's leading 21st century city.

So what might this future look like? Perhaps, the hardest of questions to answer, given the exponential rate of technological development. I believe that bio-mathematics will have profound implications for society, health, food, sustainability and communications. A relatively short time after HG Wells was ridiculed when he wrote about men travelling to the moon, we are now seriously considering manned missions to Mars. As I watch Sci-Fi films like Cyborg, Terminator, Lucy, ExMachina I become even more convinced that bio-robotics will be the trillion dollar Industrial Revolution of the 21st century. It will be important that we, as educators, at least try to keep up to date, share in the excitement of what lies ahead and equip our students with the best possible start for this adventure.

At the same time it becomes ever more important that we try to help our students to think about what our race is doing to the planet and the interdependency of countries. All is not well socially and politically, as we see in the increasing numbers of migrants heading for a better life in Europe. How should we respond to this and set an example to our young people? Build more fences to protect fortress Britain, or stop our lamentable lack of leadership and compassion, welcome the weary travellers with kindness and share some of our wealth with them? Perhaps the old politics of the West need to be rethought. As educators then, it is vital that, at the same time as inculcating a sense of scientific adventure, we underpin the education of our children with sound values so that they can make sound judgements; and, whilst some might win the next Nobel prize for robotics, others might take the prize for peace and become leaders of a better political world order.

Our students have, of course, been excelling in academic achievements the likes of which few schools can boast. In another excellent year of public examination results, 94% of A level grades were at A*/B. It was particularly pleasing to see the top grades

of A*/A increase to 78% from last year's 73%. All but 1 of the 55 students who had offers from Oxbridge or Medicine met the conditions to take up their places. At GCSE 85% of our students' grades were at A*/A, with 52% at the top grade of A*. I was particularly pleased that 95% of our boys gained the EBacc. They join an illustrious new year 12 where nearly 70 of the students have at least 9 GCSE A* grades and where we celebrated, for the first time, the admission of over 100 girls.

Some weeks ago, in the presence of HRH Princess Helen of Romania, we heard with great pride, about the many successes of our senior students: from Gold medals in Mathematics and Science Olympiads; and play-readings at the National Theatre, to the rugby tour of S. Africa and Operation Wallacea in Peru. Our Geographers visited the glaciers and fjords of Iceland; Classicists visited the sites of ancient Greece; Economists, NY and Washington. Others had experiences of a lifetime on World Challenge in Croatia, following previous groups who had visited the deserts of Namibia or the jungles of Honduras. We currently have national champions in Chess and our ancient sport of Fives. Our choristers of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy performed again at Windsor for Her Majesty the Queen. I am constantly impressed by charity and festival activities which recently saw students raise over £13,000 for Water Aid, the Jennifer Trust and the Philippines Disaster. All of these experiences enrich their lives with opportunities to develop talent or to demonstrate teamwork, leadership and potential for the future. And so, whilst becoming well-cultured scholars, all of our students will, at the same time, I hope, grow into caring, young adults with an understanding of compassion and consideration for others.

Chairman, I have tried to give a flavour of life in this amazing school, this community of which your children and you will always be a part. However, the brutal truth is that, at a time of ever deepening financial cuts from central Government, parental financial support has become not just helpful, but essential. Without it, not only would all of these wonderful activities and achievements not be able to continue, but the school would simply be financially unviable.

I hope that, as new generations of students come along, you will be joined by new generations of parents to sustain this generous but vital funding lifeline on which the school budget now depends. Thank you to all of you for your efforts, and particularly to Dinta and Debbie for chairing the PA and to Ravi for leading the fundraising group. It is vital that, as they eventually move on (not just yet I hope), others step up to the bar to continue and progress their essential work.

Treasurer's Report

Based on last year's appointment, Hai-ying Song would be the independent reviewer of accounts for this year. We started the year with a balance of around £31,000 and earned over £30,000 so were able to pay the school £52,500 towards a variety of events, some ongoing such as water coolers, others specially such as rugby posts. In terms of events, earnings were roughly £5,000 from each of the Spring Ball and Family Fun Day, roughly £2,500 from each of the Raffles, two Quiz Nights contributing around £1,500 and the Magic Night contributing £1,700. Matched Funding was down this year at just £2,700. The current bank balance is around

£15,000. We are thus substantially better than the average school Parents' Association with earnings of roughly £7,000.

Copies of the Accounts were circulated and approved, subject to review by Hai-ying Song, and will then be filed with the Charity Commission.

The following were ELECTED as the officers and trustees of the Association for the coming year:

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| Chair: | Debbie Hills |
| Vice Chair: | Charlotte Rutter |
| Treasurer: | Amit Singh |
| Secretary: | Ravi Savur |
| Assistant Secretary | Mukesh Soni |

All attending the meeting, as well as those from who apologies were received were ELECTED as the members of the Association Committee except Hai-ying Song who was appointed as independent reviewer of the accounts, and thus cannot be on the committee as per our constitution and Catherine Fleet who had indicated her desire to step down from the Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Ravi Savur, Secretary

Confirmed as a true record of the meeting

Debbie Hills, Chair