

What's new at the PA

Whew! The PA has just completed our major funding initiative of the year. Delivering Mock Tests to more than 600 children over three long, hot Saturdays is a huge endeavour and was months in the planning. More than 50 PA members were involved, dealing with queries, bookings, logistics, acting as invigilators, managing the marking process and many other roles. Thanks and kudos to the planning team led by **Tia Fisher** along with **Amit Singh, Arunima Shaaha, Balaji Ramkrishnan, Sanjay Tiwari, Sara Alade, Sudhir Pandey,** and **Charlotte Rutter**. As well as helping families prepare for the challenging Olave's entrance test, we've raised more than **£35,000** for the benefit of Olave's existing students.

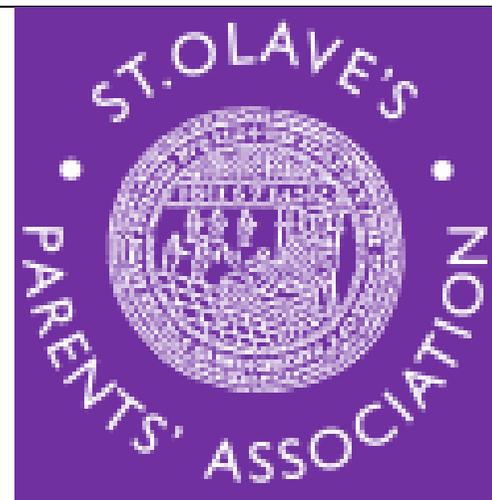
That money will be put to immediate good use. The PA is funding a major £50,000 project to transform a neglected corner of the School into a landscaped outdoor classroom and break space. The work will be done over the summer so that students will benefit as soon as they return to school in September. See page 3 for more details. In March we pledged £30,000 for the complete refurbishment of the Small Hall which is used daily by all boys in Years 7 to 11, turning this too into a freshly attractive and welcoming space.

This level of support is made possible, year after year, by our fantastic community of dedicated and loyal parents, who give their time and skills to enhance the student experience at our wonderful school.

Just this past Saturday, 29 June, a team of parents worked long and hard to welcome thousands of visitors to the School, raising £4,700 through the sale of test papers, refreshments, popcorn and snowcones. A brilliant effort by everyone involved!

NEWSLETTER

July 2019



Dates for the family calendar

THIS SATURDAY 13 July, from 10am Fun Day – It's A Knockout competition, games, music and food

17 July, 6.30pm PA Social Evening. Thank you and celebration for everyone involved in PA activities during the year. Come and socialize with fellow parents and pat yourself on the back for a job well done. Bring a small dish if you can, drinks will be available.

12 September, 7.30pm PA Meeting in the Main School Library

25 September, 2pm-6pm Careers Event for students.

28 September, 7pm-10pm Year 7 Quiz Night

Don't miss the all-new Family Fun Day this Saturday 13 July

This year's Family Fun Day features an amazing It's a Knockout obstacle course, a competition for all the family, with prizes for the winners. There'll be games and food stalls, with entertainment by the Year 8 Samba Band. Buy tickets at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stolavesparentsassociation/255179>

Or come along on the day.



IT'S A KNOCKOUT

For more information and to buy tickets in advance, please visit:

<http://buytickets.at/stolavesparentsassociation/255179>

Early bird tickets only £10, subject to availability, so hurry and get yours now!

There are two sessions, morning 11.30am and afternoon 2pm. Minimum age is school Year 3, there is no maximum age. Teams are in age groups for under 18s. If you want to be on a team with specific friends, that's fine, just name them during the checkout process and we will do our best to put you together. Teams are made up of 6-10 participants.

"It's a Knockout!" is run by a professional specialist company following full UK safety regulations and with £5m public liability insurance.

Give students the benefit of your experience - join our careers advice database The PA is building up our database of parents, friends and Old Olavians who are willing to give students the benefit of their experience in the world of work. It's easy to join – just complete our survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F8QPROQS. The more career fields we have represented in our database, the better.

Join us at the Careers Advice Event 25 September A number of parents have already committed to attend our Careers Advice Event on 25 September, between 2pm and 6pm. However we still need more! If you work in **data science, environmental management, engineering, technology, physics/materials science or languages-based careers**, we'd especially like to hear from you. A repeat of the successful inaugural event in May 2018, the careers advice afternoon is designed to give many students as possible the opportunity of one-to-one meetings with professionals in a wide variety of careers and the confidence to ask questions and seek guidance in an informal, friendly environment. Please complete the survey using the above link or contact the organizers, Deepali and Pratik Chaudhary (pratikdeepu@gmail.com) or Laura Covill (lauracovill2000@gmail.com).

Introducing the PA Quad

The PA meeting on 8 June voted to donate £50,000 to the School, to create an attractive but functional outdoor space that can be used for private study, lessons or socialising. It will serve as an extension to the sixth form common room, allow an outside lesson area for the Art department (and others), create 6th form study space, and transform an unloved area of the school premises into an attractive and useful feature which will be used for whole-school events such as the Festival Barbeque.

The funds provided by the PA will also cover several wooden gazebos and about 15 sets of pub-style furniture.

Please note that the project was subject to competitive tendering organized by the School, with analysis of the proposals by the School's Business Manager. The image on the right is the landscaper's sketch of the finished PA Quad.



Who is the PA?

The Parents' Association exists to benefit students at St Olave's Grammar School. Over the past five years, the PA has raised the extraordinary sum of over £250,000 – funds which have been invested to broaden and enhance the education and life chances of our children. We have funded specialist equipment and services that the school's budget cannot normally cover – to the benefit of all academic departments, sport, music, DT and extra-curricular activities. We also organize social events, offer careers advice to students, serve refreshments at school events – and much more. This level of support is made possible, year after year, by our fantastic community of dedicated and loyal parents, who give their time, efforts and skills to improve the student experience at our wonderful school.

Get on the PA database

The PA is updating its membership records by asking new and existing parents to complete this survey. This should only take one minute of your time. Please note that the PA does not receive parents' names and details from the School. Our general announcements go to all parents (via the School's ParentMail), but we can only include in our activities - including communications between parents in form groups - if we know your name and how to contact you. (We also ask you to consent to the PA holding your personal data, which is now a legal requirement.)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/N5ZCF8C>

The success of the PA depends on parents like you, and there are lots of ways to get involved – whether during the school day, in the evenings or at weekends. Many of our roles do not require you to be available during the day or to attend lots of meetings. You can help just once or regularly, as your personal schedule permits. Do the survey and tell us which of our activities interests you – or suggest something new!

Meet Our Members



Hello, I'm Laura Covill, I have two boys in Year 12, Jasper and Hugo, and we live in Halstead, a village between Orpington and Sevenoaks. I've been involved with the PA for four years, first as a fundraiser and helping out with refreshments, then as organiser of the careers fair, before being elected as PA Chair last November. My priorities are to spend the funds raised by the PA to achieve the greatest possible benefit to students and to get more members involved in PA activities.



I'm Sudhir Pandey When my son Sanay (now in Year 8) joined St Olave's last year, it gave me a chance to become part of the Olavian family as a parent and it was my chance to contribute in what so ever small way I can. That's how I got involved with the PA for the last couple of years, first helping out with refreshments and then worked as a member of the mock test, summer fair and Diwali organising teams. As Assistant Secretary and member of several committees, my priorities are to support major fundraising events like the Mock Tests, Diwali and Summer Fun Day. I live in Orpington and I work in engineering & construction.