



Friends of Watford Grammar School for Boys Rickmansworth Road, Watford, HERTS, WD18 7JF

Chair's Report 2014-2015

I have to say my year as Chair has been both busy and eventful. I hit the ground running, taking on a number of new changes and challenges along the way. We started the year with Martin Post, spent the middle part with Mark Allcorn and most recently welcomed Mr Ian Cooksey. There was also a large number of new committee members who joined (with the exception of a few amazing faithful stayers) we had to learn the ropes together. Suffice to say it's lucky we are all quick learners and good at team work!!!! Meetings evoked great discussions, debates and passionate contributions. It was a good job Effie was there to keep us on track.

We soon started to take our roles, naturally slotting nicely into different areas of our expertise—Deborah soon became our lead on Marketing with Vicki, Luzia, Kathryn and Elaine supporting. Not to mention getting to grips with the Family Draw.

Germaine (Secretary) and I began the year by learning how Friends support the School (Mr Hussey) at the concerts and boy did we have fun!!! Deborah introduced us to the half time refreshments. A mad rush to make sure everyone was served managed with the finesse. Although I can't mention everyone individually, I would like to say thank you to all the Committee members.

I learnt we have a large number of parent helpers who give up their time to serve tea and coffee at parents evening, thank you; I know this has been greatly appreciated.

I must take the opportunity here to thank Deborah who has managed the parent helper list, taking the lead to arrange volunteers to support all school events. Also thank you to Vicky, Luzia and Kathryn who support Deborah at all these events especially with the mulled wines at Christmas and strawberries and cream in the Summer at the various music events!

Behind the scenes, shopping for all the drinks and food has been managed very efficiently and professionally done by no other than Jeanette McLeod, a big thank you for all the inventory shopping helping us make the school events a big success.

Our first Event was the November Quiz Night, an annual event which is always well attended. Luckily we have Danielle who takes control of this event and always does a fabulous job.

After that we agreed on a Summer Ball which was held in June. The Grove in the previous year was a hard act follow but Rita and Effie led the team in achieving success on this very special night. Contributions from this event laid the foundations (together with Mark Allcorn's cycle contribution) for the purchase of a new mini bus for an amount of £25,000.

In June we hosted the film Back to Future – we had fun making popcorn welcoming the whole family for our private presentation. The popcorn machine rented was a big success and the discussions which went around them were funny, a big thank you to Germaine.

In July – A sub team worked on the year 7 new parents and student's transition day. Rachael, Jeanette, Amanda, Germaine, Deborah and myself worked hard considering profit margins and sales. The event is school organised but our contribution ensures everyone is fed and watered enjoying a social aspect. The Pimms always goes down well!!

Finally, Rita Gosrani one of our long standing active Committee member has stepped down, our secretary Germaine Matthews has also stepped down this year; Rachael Speirs will take the responsibilities forward as the new secretary.

The Committee would like to thank Rita and Germaine for their support throughout. But what is the Committee really about? Well, in between having fun, we raise money and make a number of grants to the School. This year I am pleased to say we have made the following donations: Software for special educational needs, E-Books made available for reading and yes the (big) mini bus!!!!

There are many exciting events planned for next year: including a Bollywood Barn Dance in June and a Golf Day in May!!!

So stay tuned it will be an exciting year ahead!!

Archana Singh

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