



Registered Charity 312601  
c/o St. Olave's School

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**HELD REMOTELY ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 via ZOOM**

<b>Present:</b>	Andrew Rees	President
	David Budds	Assistant Head
	Zey Kagan	Chair
	Sudhir Pandey	Treasurer
	Rachael Peek	Secretary
	Amit Singh	Vice Chair
	Bhawana Sanyal	Vice Treasurer
	Mahdi A	
	Israel Adebejun	
	Adebisi Akpomuje	
	Sara Alade	
	Naveen Anisetty	
	Rajiv Bhatnagar	
	Victoria Cattermole	
	Rie Costin	
	Haili Cui	
	Sylvie Ducat	
	Satish Gaekwad	
	Chandan Gupta	
	Uloaku Ikegwu	
	Divij Jain	
	Mark McBennett	
	Meeta Mehta	
	Rajeshwari Nagarajan	
	Manasendu Nayak	
	Suneetha Nidimamidi	
	Samir Patki	
	Omolola Rahman	
	Susi Rushton	
	Seema Singh	
	Haiying Song	
	Krishna Subbarayan	
	Sanjay Tiwari	
	Aleksey Tsukanov	

**Apologies for absence:** Winnie Leung and Charlotte Rutter

The **Minutes of the General Meeting of the Association** held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report – Sudhir Pandey**

Expenditure exceeded income by £128,365.21 for the year 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and full details were shown to all present. Payments totalling £138,883.95 were made to or on behalf of the School iro Wish Lists, the newly developed PA Quad, Careers Interviews and a pledge specifically for use on the Fives Court.

Copies of the Accounts have now been reviewed by Hai-ying Song and will now be filed with the Charity Commission.

A question was raised, with expenditure being so high, if the PA has plans to replenish the cash reserves that have been used? It was explained that having raised significant funds over the last few years without much spending, it was important to invest in projects now, so that parents whom have donated can benefit from this whilst their children are still at the school.

### **Chair's Report – Zey Kagan**

The PA has faced several challenges this year due to the pandemic that has changed so many parts of our lives. In previous years, I would have proudly reported at length about our roaring successes in organising our social and fund-raising events such as the popular Mocktests, Spring Ball, Diwali celebrations, Quiz Nights, Summer Fun Day, Careers Fairs and many more as well as supporting the school with their various events and wishlists. Alas, we were forced to cancel all our events as the world plunged into lockdown.

In the face of all these challenges, however, our extremely active and innovative parents community has once again come together to support one another, working hand in hand with the school. Even though we had to cancel our extremely successful Mocktests, having been our biggest revenue stream, the PA's mocktest team rallied together during lockdown to provide parents in their hour of need with the sought after mocktest papers. It was a mad rush to make this happen and I would like to extend a huge thank you to **Amit, Rachael, Arunima** and **Bhawana** who worked tirelessly to get all the papers to the candidates for practice before the real stage 1 examinations. We are hopeful that we will be able to hold our sought after Mocktest examinations again next year and we will work very hard to help our future candidates in any event.

Uniform Sales have always been another successful income stream for the PA and at the same time helping parents to keep up with the children's uniform and sports kits needs. This year we were again forced to cancel the traditional format of these sales due to Covid-19 and I would like to thank **Rachael, Victoria** and **Ping** who did their utmost in helping parents with uniforms and kits, despite facing several challenges there as well.

Thank you also to **Winnie** our Form Rep Coordinator for doing a fabulous job at keeping all the forms connected and informed, and also thank you to **Seema** who has been successfully assisting with a view of becoming Winnie's successor.

I would also like to thank **Charlotte** for all her hard work behind the scenes, always there to lend a hand no matter what is required.

My team has been fantastic, thank you **Amit, Rachael, Sudhir** and **Bhawana**, you have all been amazing in how much time you dedicate to our PA and how much you have been supporting the Olavian community. Part of this team is also our auditor **Mr Song** who always is at hand with invaluable advice and support.

I am very proud to be a part of the Olavian community and to see how we all come together to support the school and children even in the most challenging of times. We have been organising zoom meets and are planning on holding PA committee meetings via zoom as well.

I would like to extend a big thank you to **Amit** for not only being my vice chair, always there with support but also our zoom coordinator keeping things running. A huge special thank you also to **Rachael** who has been fabulous with all her efforts, input and hard work.

Finally I would like to wholeheartedly thank **Mr Rees, Mr Budds, Dr Sidhu** and all the other teaching staff who have worked tirelessly to keep our children at school and safe, providing those who had to self-isolate with various formats of online teaching, giving them the continuity, and keeping the children's well being at heart at all times. It has been a privilege to work with you. Part of this wonderful team are also **Veronica** and **Tereska** as well as all the other support staff who always go out of their way to support us, a big thank you!

I wish I could thank all the lovely PA supporters by name, all your hard work and efforts are highly appreciated.

We as the PA have been adapting and are working on various different ways to help the school and children in these testing times. Even though the road ahead will be rocky for a while to come, I am certain we will get through this together. The world will recover and come back stronger, just like the wonderful PA who never gives up and keeps on going.

### **President's Report delivered by Andrew Rees – Headmaster**

It has been a year like no other, and one which has seen a great deal of change in so many areas of our lives in school, at home and in the workplace. Regardless of the change going on in the wider world and the challenges which we all face, what has not changed is the unwavering support of our Parents' Association at St Olave's, and our gratitude as a school for that unwavering support.

I would like to formally thank all members of the St Olave's Parent's Association for all of the incredible hard work and dedication which they have shown over the last year. I have spoken before about the great privilege which it is to lead this school and work with some of the brightest, most remarkable and most hard-working young people in the country. It is no less applicable to the parents of those young people who have worked tirelessly with the school for the greater good of our school community.

There is more to be said than might reasonably be covered in a brief speech such as this, but I will do my best. We know that had this been a normal year, the money raised by the mock tests was projected to be the highest amount ever on the basis of the bookings which were already secured before lockdown, and owing to the planned provision to scale up the number of tests which were laid on. The fact that these tests and the very considerable funds which it was anticipated that they would raise did not materialise in no way diminishes the school's gratitude for all the hard work and preparation which went into the mock tests this year, or into the forward planning for the planned Diwali event which would have been running in its third iteration this term, but we know that the systems and the infrastructure underpinning these events will be good to go when normality returns.

We celebrate the innovation of the PA for initiatives such as last year's branded cup scheme and for the impending branded PPE scheme currently under discussion, for mobilising the sale of test papers online this year and for their critical perspective on trialling and feeding back on the blazers which your sons wear. Despite the disruptions this year, the amount of money which is raised by this PA, and the excellent support which it facilitates for your sons, continues to make you one of the most remarkable and successful bodies of your kind in the country.

The figures shared by the Treasurer remain a testament to the hard work of all of you who have given generously of your time, expertise and indeed money.

As ever though, the high profile and highly successful fund-raising and social events are not necessarily the things which most closely define the work of the PA, wonderful and worthwhile though they are. The DNA of the PA and its work shines through in the regular commitment to the low key, bread and butter events which ensure the smooth running of the school and the sense of care, community and belonging which it engenders, irrespective of the fact that many of these things have not been able to take place as usual this year. Whilst my thanks and praise do indeed go to the organisers of the large scale events, whether or not they took place, they go very much also to those who ensured the provision of service with a smile at countless Parents' Evenings, concerts and plays, and to those who made provision for donut sales, uniform sales and at all sorts of other smaller events which ran last year prior to lockdown. All of these things, large and small, make this PA what it is, and make me incredibly proud and humbled to be its president.

I thank Zey for her excellent and committed work as Chair. I would also like to thank all of the other post-holders on the Committee and indeed on all the sub-committees for their commitment and hard work. We would not be where we are today without you.

I know I speak also for Mr Budds and all others on the school's staff who work closely with the PA in saying that whatever challenges we may face, we are very much looking forward to continuing to work with you all on developing and enhancing the community, the culture and the environment of the school to make this community of learning the most welcoming and successful place it can possibly be, and a place in which your children can continue to flourish. Thank you.

Mr Rees also thanked Amit for his long service with the PA, alongside Seema his wife.

**The following were ELECTED as Officers and Trustees of the Association for the coming year:**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Zey Kagan</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Sudhir Pandey</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Rachael Peek</b>
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	<b>Amit Singh</b>
<b>Asst Treasurer:</b>	<b>Bhawana Sanyal</b>
<b>Asst Secretary:</b>	<b>Omolola Rahman</b>

All attending the meeting were ELECTED as the members of the Association Committee, except Haiying Song who was appointed as independent reviewer of the accounts, and thus cannot be on the committee.

Israel Adebajun also stated that he did not wish to be a Committee member.

## **Any Other Business**

It was suggested that a Whatsapp Group be set up of all Committee members for ease with communication. This was agreed – **Amit to action.**

In previous years, we have also had a Publicity Officer and in current times with Meetings online and so much via Social Media, Mark agreed to take on this role.

Parking on Park Avenue - The issue of parents performing dangerous u turns in front of the school gates and parking inconsiderately across resident's driveways is a concern raised by the school and also at the Form Reps Meeting last year. As the problem appears to be getting worse, the Committee have decided that they would like to try and help. Ideas proposed ranged from leaflets via the pupils, visible deterrents including volunteers at key times outside the school gates and further schoolcomms. **A sub Committee of Bhawana, Rajiv and Lola has been formed to investigate and the PA will draft a letter to be reviewed for sending out to all parents.**

Attendees also raised concerns regarding the communication of Covid cases to relevant year groups\affected pupils and whether the school could act more swiftly to reduce unnecessary exposure. Whilst this is a very important issue, it was felt that it was a PA matter and parents should approach the school directly if urgent, or alternatively communicate via the Form Rep system.

**The Meeting closed at 10.05pm**

**Rachael Peek – Secretary**

Confirmed as a true record of the Meeting

**Zey Kagan - Chair**

