



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

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2018

<b>Present:</b>	Andrew Rees	President
	David Budds	Assistant Head
	Charlotte Rutter	Chair
	Amit Singh	Treasurer
	Rachael Peek	Secretary
	Mark McBennett	Vice Chair
	Adeybisi Akpomuje	
	Keji Alade	
	Sara Alade	
	Tiffany Barradell	
	Lance Christopher	
	Laura Covill	
	Tia Fisher	
	Siddarth Gautam	
	Colette Gebbett	
	Harsha Kumar	
	Helene Huille	
	Zey Kagan	
	Lakshmi Kandala	
	Susmita Kumari	
	Winnie Leong	
	John Maughan	
	Thanh Nguyen	
	Brid Nunn	
	Sudhir Pandey	
	Seema Singh	
	Haiying Song	
	Birendra Shrestha	
	Deepti Tiwari	
	Sanjay Tiwari	
	James Wright	
	Jo Wright	
	Xiahong Zhang	

**Apologies for absence:** Lousette Ashton, Rinkhu Chibber, Justine Grant, Kai Liang, Jim O'Connor, Balaji Ramakrishnan, Maire Sullivan, Shelly Tse

The **Minutes and Accounts of the General Meeting of the Association** held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Income exceeded expenditure by £63,033.36 for the year 1 September 2017 – 31 August 2018 and full details were circulated to all present. Payments totalling £18,236.16 were made to or on behalf of the School, with just over £16,000 of this being on the Wish List.

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

### **Chair's Report**

This year, after a difficult start, the PA have put on an amazing array of events and have once again raised a staggering amount of money for the school.

I've been proud to lead a fantastic group of people, who all put in so much effort to make the events so successful and enjoyable. It was so pleasing to see a number of new Year 7 and Year 12 parents join in and help out at events this year. I hope they are finding it rewarding and enjoyable.

It has been an honour to work in collaboration with **Mr Budds, Mr Rees** and all the other teachers who put our children's welfare at the very heart of all they do. Not to forget also, **Veronica, Tereska** and the other support staff who provide a great deal of help to the PA throughout the year, despite it not being in their job description!

Now to some particular events: I'd like to give a huge thanks to the 50 or so people who helped with the massive task of running mock entrance tests. In particular, **Amit** who does an enormous amount of work on this that is mainly behind the scenes. Also, with special mention to Tia who has been learning the ropes for next year.

A massive thanks to **Jo** who took on the huge task of almost singlehandedly organising the Strictly St Olave's ball which was a great success. Once again, the Great Hall was transformed, and we were treated to a delicious meal, a brilliant display of ball room dancing and a late evening of music, dancing and drinking.

Only this last weekend, our second ever Diwali@Olave's event was a storming success with almost 250 attendees and a superb and entertaining variety performance from students and parents. **Shubhra, Sudhir** and the organising team did a fantastic job which is much appreciated.

Big thanks also to my vice-chair **Mark**, who has been a great support and put in an enormous amount of effort running the Fun Day which is always a huge undertaking. The event was very successful despite the many obstacles in its path including last minute cancellation of inflatables, ill-timed World Cup matches and tropical heat waves.

Also, alongside the Fun day, my super brochure sales team, **Rinku, Liz and Harsha**, did a fantastic job selling advertising space and getting raffle donations for our top quality Fun Day brochure, which, thanks also to Jim's design flair, keeps improving year after year.

I have also received a huge amount of support this year from **Colette**, who took on the new role of volunteer co-ordinator. She grew the role and made it her own, taking away a lot of the stresses from me and **Rachael**. It is truly appreciated.

We ran two fun quiz nights this year with the usual scramble of most of the ticket sales being in the last week, or even the last day. With particular thanks to **David** our quizmaster for all his efforts preparing and delivering the devilish quizzes.

Our first ever Careers Fair in May was a roaring success. **Laura** did a fantastic job, from coming up with the idea and running with it, right through to the very well organised day itself. We have heard great reviews from the students who attended and look forward to this becoming a regular event in the PA calendar.

Thanks to **Winnie**, who with support from **Brid**, for all her tireless work keeping the form reps on their toes and for always being happy to send out the many reminder messages for the PA.

Uniform sales continue to be a strong revenue stream as well as a great effort to help the environment (and parents' pockets). I'm so pleased that **Victoria** and **Zey** have agreed to take on this important role going forward.

Lastly, my biggest thank you goes to **Rachael** who has this year managed to take on her new role as secretary while simultaneously running the uniform sales and keeping all our refreshment items fully stocked. We really couldn't have done it without her; I don't know where she finds the time to do so much.

I'm only sorry I can't mention everyone by name in these thank yous, as the list would be far too long, but I do appreciate each and every one of you.

Looking ahead we are now in the enviable position of having a very healthy bank balance along with a great team of volunteers in place who work really well together. We are trying to spread the load of the events so that different people can concentrate on just one or two things per year.

We would like to focus on new ways we can support the school as the wish lists just can't keep up with our fund raising! Now that we consistently make such a large amount we can raise of our sights of what we can achieve in support of the school for both current and future students. Onwards and upwards we go.

**Charlotte Rutter**

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

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. The amount of money which is raised by this PA, and the remarkable support which it facilitates for your sons, via the Wellbeing initiative, the Wish-lists from departments and the grants for specific initiatives or events, makes you one of the most remarkable and successful bodies of your kind in the country.

PA made a total of £80,686 in the last financial year. The School is immensely grateful for donations/payments of £26,611 that have been given to the school this year.

These figures speak for themselves in this respect and are a testament to the hard work of all of you who have given generously of your time, expertise and indeed money. Nowhere does this seem more apparent than in the headline events or initiatives, such as our fantastic PA family fun day in the summer, despite the last minute deflation due to the lack of inflatables, and our glamorous Spring Ball, my wife has never been a guest of honour before or in the ongoing mock tests or the second annual iteration of the fantastic Diwali event held last Saturday, both of which latter initiatives began highly successful and have continued to escalate in terms of the amount raised year on year. Yet these 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. My thanks and praise do indeed go to the organisers of the large scale events, but also to the army of volunteers who undertake the weekly barbecues by the Pavilion, the ready provision of service with a smile at countless Parents' Evenings, concerts and other events, the provision for donut sales, and uniform sales, the commitment to Spruce Up Saturdays wherein it was my privilege this summer to work with you on repainting the changing rooms in the Pavilion. I hope you will feel as I do that after a challenging year we are now delivering on the hope which was alluded to at last year's AGM of being united in a common purpose and this shared work together on the Spruce up day, for me, was a vivid symbol of that hope brought to life.

I also wish to commend the PA for its restless sense of innovation in driving forward new initiatives like the hugely successful and helpful Careers Fair which ran earlier in the year, and for the introduction of the wonderful new Wellbeing Fund, to say nothing of sustaining all of the other fantastic and long-established aspects of the school calendar which so enrich the life of the school such as the aforementioned Fun Day and Spring Ball, the Quizzes and the welcome evenings which assist with bringing new parents into the Olavian community. These, and so much more. 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 am very much aware though, that the title is an honorific one, both in the sense that it is an honour to work with you, and that it carries no practical power in terms of the running of this PA. I recognise and accept that my role as President is to sit at a clear remove from the organisation and management of the PA as defined by its constitution. Insofar as I have anything to ask of the PA beyond that you all keep up the fantastic work which does so much to enhance the lives of our boys and girls, I ask that you help me in delivering on the recommendations of the recent investigation report to which we have committed as a school, and I look forward to receiving the new PA Constitution once it has been reviewed, refined and ratified and trust that it will enshrine clearly and unequivocally that separation of powers between the President of the PA and its day to day running via the Committee and the democratically elected leadership structure. Just to remind you that the recommendation states clearly that the PA constitution be reviewed with a view to making it clear that the role of the Head as President of the PA is not an operational one. The other recommendation is that that every effort is made by all groups of parents to draw a line under the splits revealed at the Annual General Meeting of the PA and to work together as a unified group in the interests of the pupils. Again, I hope you will feel as I do that after a challenging year we are all now delivering on this recommendation, and if there are pockets of dissatisfaction that you make either David or I aware so we can work on improving this.

With that in mind, I particularly want to thank this year's committee for providing a bedrock of stability in the midst of a turbulent period in the life of the school. I hope that we will very much continue on this happy trajectory under the new Committee. None could have done more as Chair in this difficult period than Charlotte Rutter. I thank her for her excellent and committed work as Chair and am grateful for her commitment to continue working with the PA in other capacities. Charlotte has set the bar high for whoever will follow her, and I would 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 Mrs James in saying that we 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.

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

Chair:	Laura Covill
Treasurer:	Amit Singh
Secretary:	Rachael Peek

**And the following were ELECTED as the members of the Association Committee:**

Mark McBennett  
Adebisi Akpomuje  
Keji Alade  
Sara Alade  
Tiffany Barradell  
Lance Christopher  
Laura Covill  
Tia Fisher  
Siddarth Gautam  
Colette Gebbett  
Harsha Kumar  
Helene Huille  
Zey Kagan  
Lakshmi Kandala  
Susmita Kumari  
Winnie Leong  
John Maughan  
Thanh Nguyen  
Brid Nunn  
Sudhir Pandey  
Seema Singh  
Birendra Shrestha  
Deepti Tiwari  
Sanjay Tiwari  
James Wright  
Jo Wright  
Xiahong Zhang

Haiying Song was re-appointed as independent reviewer of the accounts.

## **Any Other Business**

Roles and Responsibilities were discussed for the coming year with the remaining positions now filled.

It was suggested that a sub-committee led by Lance Christopher will embrace the Whatford Report recommendation number 24 (*That the PA constitution be reviewed with a view to making it clear that the role of the Head as President of the PA is not an operational one.*) The Committee agreed to a thorough review which will be drafted and then submitted for external scrutiny, together with advice from PTA UK for any further recommended refinements. An update of their findings will be discussed at the January Meeting.

David Budds requested that it is formally minuted that in Mr Rees's speech, he publically avowed that his role as President of the PA is not an operational one and that he recognised in the PA - and how it had run since the highly unusual AGM of 2017 – a committed group of parents tirelessly supporting the school and all its pupils.

In view of Whatford Report recommendation 47 (*That every effort is made by all groups of parents to draw a line under the splits revealed at the Annual General Meeting of the PA and to work together as a unified group in the interests of the pupils.*), it was noted formally that the AGM of November 2018 had been a far more harmonious one than that held in November 2017. It was recognised that all named post-holders on the committee had been the only candidates put forward that year and they had all been voted in unanimously (in sharp contrast to the vents of the previous year). It was also formally recognised that the PA had drawn a line under the splits revealed in the 2017 AGM, and acknowledged that all members were working together as a unified group.

## **The Meeting closed at 9.15pm**

Rachael Peek – Secretary

Confirmed as a true record of the Meeting

Charlotte Rutter - Chair