



## **St Gregory's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association – Members' Report**

**1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021**

### **WELCOME**

Welcome to our AGM! We begin with some background to explain the context of the St Greg's PTFA and our ongoing work to secure its future. The PTFA is run by a committee that is elected each year at the AGM, the only formal meeting of the year for the PTFA.

### **BACKGROUND**

Until 2020, the PTFA was run by a small number of volunteers in collaboration with the school's finance team to provide a fundraising and event service to support the school. The administration of the PTFA was conducted wholly by school personnel. A small committee, elected in 2019 was dissolved later that year when two members retired their posts, leaving no Chair or Treasurer. The continuation of the PTFA was performed by remaining and unelected members acting as they could to keep some momentum going. In 2020, school administrative support was reduced and handed over to volunteers. New members were recruited for and we were thrilled to welcome Jeremy and Kylie as Treasurers to oversee the financial administration of the PTFA. The withdraw of support from the school, coupled with the leaving of key staff members, presented additional challenges as Trustees could not be updated, banking details could not be handed over and a quorum could not be reached under the existing Constitution.

In July 2021, the Treasurers and members called an EGM to propose a new Constitution to better reflect the abilities of a smaller committee. This would mean that a Chair, a Treasurer and a Secretary would be required as a minimum with additional committee members welcome. The result has meant that we have been able to comply with our legislative duties in respect of the Charities Commission, GDPR (pending approval) and we now have access to the PTFA bank accounts.

The PTFA is currently run by five members, Lisa and Paula, who act in the capacity of unelected committee members, Sarah who leads our Pop Up Uniform Shops, and Kylie and Jeremy, elected Treasurers. Other members are on hand to assist with events. Clearly this still isn't in line with the Constitution and so it is hoped that we can remedy that this evening with the appointment of new officers! It all sounds very official but actually, what we really want to be able to do, is move forward having now put in place the foundations.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Our aim is simple: to make a positive difference and ensure a thriving and effective parent body at the heart of the school.

We all understand the pressures and challenges of parenting and volunteering so our hope is to encourage a diverse range of fundraising activities and initiatives that are process driven and largely

self-sufficient e.g. Easy Fundraising, 50 50 Club, regular crowdfunding etc. but to also create a sense of community for parents/carers to engage in without over-burdening anyone.

We have identified the following roles to help us to achieve this and add strength to the PTFA, helping it to grow and prosper for many years to come:

- Chair(s)\*
- Treasurer(s)\*
- Secretary(s)\*
- Year group co-ordinators
- Events co-ordinator
- Volunteers co-ordinator
- Crowdfunding co-ordinator
- Funding and Bids co-ordinator

Apart from the Treasurer, all roles are currently shared amongst committee members to some capacity, and we would love to welcome new members to share them further. We are open to all ideas and input and these roles are not set in stone (apart from the officer roles\*). They could be shared, merged or changed. It is the purpose of this AGM to identify volunteers willing to support and expand our group in whichever way we can.

### **SUMMARY**

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the PTFA maintained income streams through new initiatives and projects, detailed in the Treasurers' Report. We raised a significant amount and were able to maintain some momentum throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The lack of school events meant that we had to be creative with our fundraising but this has also been a blessing as it has highlighted new ways of engaging and raising sustainable funds such as the new 50/50 Club. Added to the funds raised in 2019-20, this year we have supported over £11,000 of projects at the school. An amazing achievement by any PTA's standards!

But it's not just about fundraising. We recognised that staff at the school were going above and beyond to support our children through the pandemic. In December 2020, we organised a donation scheme for parents/carers to give to and share message of thanks or stories of inspiration. This was turned into a surprise 'wall of gratitude' in the staff room, coupled with gifts for every member of staff. The Head has since created a 'Book of Thanks' out of all of the messages, as a reminder of the community and family at St Greg's during this time.

Finally, we would like to finish this report by offering a word of appreciation to everyone involved in the PTFA this year. Your commitment and willingness to contribute has been incredible as have your efforts to ensure that the PTFA has a future. We look forward to building on this in the coming year.

Lisa and Paula (on behalf of the committee).

