

**Alban City School PTA**  
**Chair's Report: Jan 2019 – Jan 2020**

We write this report at the end of our tenure as Co-Chairs. It has been a busy but rewarding time and we remain in awe of the support and engagement the school community shows. 2019 has been another successful year of fundraising for Alban City School, during which we have overseen a major drive to help realise the amazing ACS Theatre.

### **Organisation and Communication**

PTA meetings were held near-monthly in 2019 and provided an opportunity to share ideas, take suggestions for the upcoming events and to gather feedback from past events. PTA team members supported events via sub-committees. Subcommittees then fed-back to the wider group once the minutiae had been thrashed out. We have found this a particularly productive way of working and it also allows those who are not able to attend the PTA meetings to contribute to the running of events. Anyone is welcome to join an event's subcommittee and/or chip in ideas at any time.

We continued with the highly successful Class Rep model, whereby nominated parents or carers in each class relay important PTA information, help with selling of tickets, gathering feedback and answering (or passing on) questions; they provide the easiest route of contact for the PTA.

To communicate with the school community, we produced termly newsletters, set up the Alban City School PTA Facebook page and have had great support from the Class Reps in transmitting information, including a monthly PTA meeting digest, via class Whatsapp or email groups. This year we relocated the PTA notice board (now outside Lime Class) and continue to advertise upcoming events along with updates of fundraising targets on this. We continue to use the Yellow PTA boxes for ticketing but have also increased our use of Eventbrite for parents who prefer the convenience of online payment.

### **Objectives**

Our focus, as a PTA, is to support our wonderful school and we aim to do this by promoting engagement and the coming together of the school community, raising funds to help enrich the school's running and also by forging external links with the wider St Albans community.

After deciding on our next big fundraising at the end of 2017, the PTA paid for a feasibility study into a basement renovation project in 2018. The layout for the ACS Theatre was finalised at the beginning of 2019 at which point we were thrilled to announce and promote the plans for our fundraising drive. We started the 2018-19 financial year with an already healthy balance but set ourselves a target of topping this up to £30,000, using Mr Edwards as a 'Human Totaliser' to chart our progress. Alongside the events below, we launched a Just Giving page for direct contribution and oversaw a hugely successful Silent Auction. Needless to say, we were blown away with the generosity of the school community and completely smashed our target, donating over £43k to the school by the end of August, as detailed in Julia's treasurer report (which runs Aug 18-19) and including direct donations

through Just Giving. Our totaliser is still ticking, with Claire and Nadeene finishing their stewardship on a call out to local businesses.

## **2019 Events**

We have seen a full and varied schedule of events this year:

Comedy Night  
Valentines' Bake Sale  
Yr 2-6 Film night  
R and Yr1 Spring Disco  
Gin Night  
Odyssey Cinema takeovers  
Summer Event  
Autumn Bake Sale  
Halloween Disco  
Quiz nights  
Christmas Fair  
R and Yr1 Film Night  
Nearly New Sales  
Non-Uniform days  
Ice lolly sales  
Coffee mornings .....

In 2019 we saw the return of Comedy Night, hosted by the hilarious Pauline Eyre and featuring Rosie Wilby, Mike Capozzola, Mad Ron and Doug Segal. We are looking forward to our March 2020 date with anticipation.

This year we saw our first off site adult-centred event with the Gin Night and explored potential collaborations with local business.

The Odyssey Cinema Takeover has been a firm favourite on our events list for a number of years now. After a price hike, we had to shift format and now share the cinema with another school. In May we watched Ralph Breaks the Internet with SASS, then in November we watched Hotel Transylvania 3 with Fleetville Infants. The format seemed to work well and we are hoping we can team up with other schools for future screenings.

Back to our original format, we took a traditional look at our Summer Event this year with a BBQ, bottle tombola, cakes, face painting, wet the teacher, smash a plate and much, much more. We also enjoyed performances from the orchestra, string quartet, choir and Active Allstars. This, along with the Christmas Fair (which helped drum-up some early festive cheer), are real focuses of the PTA year. With much hard work and planning, the Summer Event and Christmas Fair are by far our biggest fundraising events.

Angela, our Quiz Master Extraordinaire tested our mental agility for the last time this November. We enjoyed fantastic turn outs and great competitive fun was had by all.

We are now looking forward to another full year of events with a Comedy Night already being planned and ideas flowing on other exciting events. We are so happy that the ACS Theatre was finished heralding the potential for a whole stream of possibilities of use by the pupils and wider community alike.

### **It's been a blast**

As we depart, we would like to say how grateful we are to have had bountiful support, feedback and encouragement throughout. We would like to make an extremely special mention to Julia, who has been invaluable and instrumental in the running of the PTA this year and who, we are relieved to say, is continuing in her role as Treasurer. We are also thrilled to announce that the ever capable Lizzi, along with Julia, will be steering this ship into 2020 so please shout if you'd like to help them chart the way!

Julia has provided a breakdown of funds raised and distributed in the 2018/2019 year. As a brief summary we are extremely pleased to relay that the PTA team managed to raise over £20k between Sept 2018 – Aug 2019 and have raised £9.6k so far this school year. Along with donations to the ACS Theatre project, we have donated funds to buy library books towards a year 6 end of year party, and to subsidise the annual panto trip.

We are proud to have been at the helm for the last two years. It was hard work but thoroughly satisfying and we never failed to be surprised and humbled at people's generosity, for their time and giving.

Farewell and good luck to our next amazing PTA team!  
Nadeene and Claire