
AGM Chair's Report

Zoë de la Pascua
11 October 2018



The academic year 2017/18 saw another fabulously fun and successful year of fundraising for the PSA, with events grossing more than £11,000. Despite a decrease from 2016/17 this sum is not insignificant when you consider the size of the St Martin's parent community comprises just over 130 families.

Our year on year spend was down from previous years, in part due to a limited requests from the school for funding. The significant staff reorganisation and leadership challenges were contributory factors. **We did however assign more than £7,000** to the school with **Reception play equipment** accounting for nearly half this figure. There were some big wins, with proportionally small outlays, in particular the St Rose class sand pit and the inspired teacher Christmas wish lists.

The complete breakdown of 2017/18 finances, together with a summary can be found in the Treasurer's report.

As well as the regular events, I am especially proud of our **International Evening**, which saw so many families come together to celebrate with food, music and dance, and our first ever **Father's Day Breakfast** which was a wonderful opportunity to welcome Dad's to school. Not least, the **Cake Sale Competition** was hugely exciting, and bought classes together to raise remarkable amounts for their classrooms.

In addition to all the hard work organising events, we did some considerable 'housekeeping', notably, establishing **Funding Guidelines** to ensure monies are allocated according to our key principles. We also set up a **Funding Request Process** to expedite approvals which was communicated to encourage requests from PSA committee members and all staff as well as the SLT, and a formal **expense policy**, both of which can be found on our PSA page on the school's website. Aligned to this, we took our banking and payment process online. We endeavoured to make signing up to help at events easier by introducing **online sign up sheets**, which were well received.

Staff engagement has been exceptional. Staff were welcomed at all of our events and actively got involved with manning stalls at the Fayre's. Parents and children seeing staff outside school hours at PSA events working together for our St Martin's community is not to be underestimated; we look forward to strengthening that bond over the coming year.

Great Team work! Empowering parents with dedicated roles has worked well and will continue to be a focus. We've played to peoples strengths; I recognise that not every parent wants to come to meetings or even attend events, but that we can all 'do our bit'.

Communicate Communicate Communicate! We took steps to get the message out by setting up a **wider PSA Committee** group, where information is disseminated via class WhatsApp groups and reaches parents quickly. Our regular **PSA Newsletters** sought to highlight events coming up, and celebrate the successes of past wins. The **PSA Facebook page** engages with parents and our extended community; incredibly, the recent Open Day flyer reached more than 1,400 people. We even made it to the local press on a number of occasions, proving that an active PSA contributes to the positive advertising of the school.

Thank You's; To the elected committee members, Lindsay, Lucy & Julie, we have achieved so much! I am so proud of the work you have done this year, each of you dedicating hours and hours of time, late nights, crisis meetings, last minute panics! Lindsay, you have been such an active member of the PSA, not just in your year as Vice Chair, but over the past 5 years. I really miss your rational, calming, professional approach, but I know that our loss is SCPS PTA's gain!

To the incredibly hard working **Business Sponsorship & Raffle Team, Catherine, Theresa & Colette,** your ability to talk businesses into sponsoring us through advertising or donations is mind blowing! Colette, your 7 years of service as Raffle Manager will be difficult to live up to!

To the **Committee Members & Class Reps; Catherine B, Charlie, Fed, Manu, Maz, Nicole & Rashi,** your roles are so pivotal to the success of the PSA. I rely on you to get the word out, encourage, coerce and nag your class parents into getting involved. Thank you for your constant WhatsApp updates and for rallying support.

The end of last term was a difficult one for parents and staff alike, and I am enormously grateful to the **Staff for their commitment to the PSA,** helping out at events, letting me pop up in Assembly, guiding me on protocol and overcoming hurdles! Thank you!

Finally to everyone who volunteered to help at an event, organised or ran a stall, to everyone who donated a bottle, sweets, chocolates, to everyone who came along and spent their money, thank you all, together, we are really making a difference.

We head into 2018/19 hugely positive about the year to come. I am hopeful that our reach continues to engage with parents and staff and that we all feel able to contribute to supporting our wonderful school through the activities of the PSA. Our challenges will be managing the demands of busy lives with the voluntary time spent organising, running or helping out at PSA events, however anyone who's participated in supporting an event, no matter how big or small their contribution, will know how incredibly rewarding it is.

Thank you all, for supporting me this year as Chair.