

## **Lacon Childe School PTA AGM - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 - Report from The Chair**

### **THE GOOD NEWS**

In 2021-22 PTA events and activities raised around £8000. PTA funds bought the following items for students:

- A new cooker, sewing machine, sublimation printer and cordless drill for Design Technology
- £3000 towards school wide House Competitions including new House banners and prizes.
- Stock Market, Architecture and Orienteering sessions for each Maths year group to aid in the transition from KS2 to KS3
- Extra art materials for Year 9 and GCSE students
- 5 x Metal Detectors for History
- 6 x new tents for Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions
- Record of Achievement Folders for each student to help with college applications and job interviews

### **THE BAD NEWS**

At the start of this 2022-23 school year, we have said farewell to two active PTA members. This included our Treasurer, who was also our liaison to the Borders Classic Bike Show Committee. The PTA now has only five members that attend meetings and two active volunteers that help at events. At the end of this school year, we lose a Chair along with two members that manage our social media and marketing as well as Bags 2 School bookings. *This leaves us with only two remaining PTA members.*

### **THE PAST**

This is the first year our events were unaffected by social distancing. Virtual events were well and truly outdated. With help from teachers and staff, we held our much-anticipated Quiz Night and Race Night. A collaboration with teachers, staff and students also saw the school's inaugural Summer Fair which was a resounding success. Other regular PTA activities such as The School Lottery, Easyfundraising, Bags 2 School and second-hand uniform sales were also well supported by families throughout the year.

### **THE PRESENT**

PTA meetings are held monthly, usually via Zoom, making planning efficient. The Senior Leadership Team of teachers have been present through the year to help guide and motivate PTA fundraising. Whilst we have kept members in key roles, our work is always a team effort because we have no other choice. We are struggling as a PTA and without more active members to fill key roles the PTA can very possibly cease to exist. This means students will no longer receive help from PTA funding to foster their academic potential.

### **THE FUTURE**

Considering how much the school gains from PTA fundraising, parents should appreciate that PTA membership does not require a huge commitment. PTA activities usually follow a task list, making the organisation of events very straightforward. We all lead busy lives, and our methods are constantly evolving because of this. Every parent has the personal and/or professional skills, whether they realise it or not, to be able to help the PTA:

- 5 minutes of your social media time to share PTA Facebook posts helps promote PTA events.
- 10 minutes to make a phone call to organise a Bags 2 School collection, twice a year, adds around £400 to PTA funds.
- 30 minutes is all it takes to send emails to food suppliers to place orders for The Bike Show catering. This recent Bike Show made approximately £2500 from food sales.
- 1 hour to help to serve drinks at the Bar for a PTA event is a great way to meet other parents. Along with the bar sales, tickets and a raffle, the last Race Night raised £1900.

### **THE SIMPLE TRUTH**

In a climate of budgets cuts and increased costs of living, there is no end of adverse reasons to limit your child's education and well-being. We really need volunteers to commit their time to ensure the PTA continues to constructively support the school community.

**Now is the time to consider making a difference to your child's school experience. The PTA urges you to get in touch and be part of a positive future for the PTA, the students and the school.**

*Sharon Wakeman*

Chair  
Lacon Childe School PTA