

Chair Report 2021-2022

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been my pleasure to Chair the Bishop Wordsworth's School Parents' Association for the past two years, it is a time I will treasure not just because of the events of life that happened but for the friendship of a truly remarkable and dedicated parent team. It's the understanding how important our contribution is as a group and the recognition the school gives to our support as we do make a difference for our students ensuring that small projects can be funded.

As I step down and reflect on the last 24 months, we have gone through a world crisis with COVID, now as we enter the next 12 months my successor has a world economic downturn and stability issues in eastern Europe that is a key contributor in escalating the world's economy. It has not been an easy time and will continue to be a challenge especially where fund raising is concerned. I wish my successor every success, I believe that there will be a strong and willing parent forum behind you to make chosen projects a success.

I would like to thank several people for their support of the BWSPA, initially too, for their recognition of the work that we do; Dr Smallwood for his regular attendance at our meetings and giving very open discussions on what is happening in the school and being open to many a question from the Parents Association. Barry Smith for standing in at times to these meetings and again giving a very good brief and being in regular contact with our Treasurer over funds and the uses. Nikki Miles who has worked tirelessly in the background getting information to parents from us.

The Committee of the BWSPA, Charles, who has taken on the role of Vice Chair this year come up with some great new fundraisers such as the Champagne Tasting Evening in December and being a great sounding board. Kate who has taken the minutes of our meetings, supported as a helper at events we have arranged and keeping me on track with my duties; Kirsten who as the Communications Lead has worked very closely to bring the two Parent Associations, of SWGS and ourselves together with Nicolette to make the Christmas Fair such a great event and again bigger and better this coming year, for her work in creating such a professional website allowing for parents to be able to see what events are coming up. Tarun for his work as Treasurer keeping the accounts and ensuring payments to various people is made swiftly and being a great sage as ideas are discussed, Sarah who has been shadowing and has put herself forward for the role of Treasurer for the coming year and pitching in to all the events we have been running. Iain who has reignited the 1000 Club and getting this great fund raiser back to where it should be. To Onür who has now taken on the role and is working to make it bigger and even more effective as a fund raiser. Terry who last year was such a support with equipment's for the Christmas Fair and organising the Summer Dance, Lucy who has been such a stalwart of the Association, supporting the minutes, roping in her family to make and bake and supply coffee and drinks at the Christmas Fairs and the Rain Or Shine events., To the new members such as Gulin who has stepped up at many event to support and helping with the school archive and some great new ideas on how to raise funds through this. Zainab who has not only helped with

Uniform sales but has found match funding capabilities through the company she works for and to Emma who has recently joined us and has been helping with Uniform. I am sure there are others I have missed and I can only apologise but finally I would like to thank Nicolette, who this year has had several challenges of her own to deal with but still has made time and been so dedicated to ensuring that the BWSPA runs with her knowledge and skills of keeping events such as Christmas Fair, Rain and Shine event which are a triumph in fundraising for BWSPA and a great experience for the stall holders and actors alike who come back year on year to support us. Thank you all.

During the last 12 months the BWSPA has made some major contributions to projects that the students have or will benefit from these include.

- DT Department upgrade to cutting equipment £1000
- 'Pitch In' Campaign for the Multi Use Games Area £5000
- Chapel Organ Restoration - £4000
- External Seating Benches - £1800
- Book Fund – increase Literature Reading Material for students to access - £500
- New Basketball Hoops - £450





To name a few but all of these had to be supported by fund raising activities supported by you the Parents of the students at Bishop Wordsworth.

I mentioned before it has been a very tough time as COVID continued to stop activities such as Yr 7 skittles night, the Quiz and various other activities. Thankfully major events such as the Christmas Fair and the ongoing 1000 Club supported us and helped raise funds plus very generous donations.

With this coming festive season, I urge all parents to look at their shopping habits and if they could change one thing, please can they look at:

[How to Support your child & the school | Bwspa](#)

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bwspa/>

<http://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

Please use this opportunity to raise funds through Amazon Smile, Easy Fundraising or even looking to see if the business you work for will do Match Funding. It all makes a huge difference to our students.

BWSPA 1000 Club please join by Direct Debit a minimum of £1 per month, each month we distribute half the takings back in prize money the other half going to the BWSPA to fund projects. We don't enjoy the same levels of funding as private schools, but our students achieve amazingly well and compete at the highest levels and we want to help them achieve even more. The money you donate makes this possible so please if you can dig a little deeper

www.bwspa.org.uk/1000-club

We have a number of vacancies this year to fill as current committee members will be standing down from their roles, myself included: We are looking for other parents to join us

at our meetings (please remember as a parent you are already a member of the association), if you can give a little more that would be amazing. You don't have to be a full committee member, but you might want to take on a role that fits with your expertise, but this will support the committee. (Supporting the Christmas Fair and eventually running, liaise with school on literature events, be the link with the Music School or the Sports Department for example)

Currently we are looking for:

Minutes Secretary – To take minutes from the meeting, be a liaison with the Headmasters Secretary and ensure meeting communications is sent to the committee and our School Website.

Web Manager – Currently our BWSPA.org.uk is based on a WIX platform, we need someone who has this experience of web pages and back end shop function and that can liaise with our Treasurer and Chair.

Social Media Posts – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram to post agreed statements by the committee only and to ensure that there is communication with the Chair.

Assistant Treasure – to Shadow the new Treasurer ready to take on the role in two years.

A Vice Chair who would like to shadow the new Chair and host the occasional meetings and looking to move into this role in a year or twos time.

Thank you again and I wish the BWSPA continued success in the coming years

Rob Jones

Chair BWSPA