



## SMA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2018

### AGM MARCH 2019

#### Events etc. from last AGM March 2018 to date

Following our AGM Meeting last March, we held our **'Pink Party'** in the June as our adults' social evening and we wanted to hold a more informal kind of party evening for a change. We chose the Gerrards Cross Golf Club as our venue, and it was an excellent location for the evening. Our Pink theme was reflected in not only our superb decorations, but also in all our party guests who were dressed or wearing something in all different shades of pink! We started with a 'Pink Bubbly' welcome drink then guests enjoyed a disco, very tasty bowl food, casino tables, photo booth and our very own 'Pink Tombola Trees' where they could purchase a ticket for £10 and have the chance to win some fabulous prizes. We also included the Breast Cancer Charity as it was a pink evening, in our promotions and decorations we were able to send a donation to them for £140 from our fabulous evening, which raised £1413 in total.

The day before the party we held a **Father's Day Sale** in Oakdene for the girls. It is mainly for the Prep girls but we did get visits from some of the Seniors too. The girls enjoyed choosing gifts for their dads whilst raising £135 for our fund. We hope the dads liked their gifts!

The following weekend was our annual **Fun Day**, held after the Prep Sports morning. Our refreshments, bacon rolls and muffins stand during the Sports activities was again most popular, and our Fun Day followed the sports with everyone having fun at the stalls our classes had expertly put together, and

most of which managed to be outside in the sunshine!. We sold burgers, hot dogs, Pimms and the ice cream van was kept very busy too! This Fun Day raised £1,007.

At the end of a very busy month Mrs Hurst hosted a retirement party for Mrs Ross at her home, with all of the current SMA, and some from the past too, and a selection of others who had been involved with the SMA. Tania Lawrance created a fabulous cake and we all raised our glasses to say a huge thank you to Mrs Ross for all her support and appreciation over the years, and to wish her well. It was a lovely evening and she was extremely touched and grateful, especially for the special gift we had all clubbed together to present to her.

Our **Bursary**, £300 given to a student to help enhance their future studies be it personal or charitable, was this year awarded to Isadora Spratling at Speech Day. She was a Year 13 student who had planned a trip with her church to visit and help at the Rahab Project in Uganda, which dedicates support to those affected by exploitation, mainly women and children.

The Thank you Breakfast meeting Mrs Ross hosted for the SMA and current Class Representatives was once again very pleasant and was well attended. We all enjoyed a cup of tea/coffee, a pastry and a chat on the library terrace, and were able to say our goodbyes to Mrs Ross, and thank our Reps for their help and support during the year.

Following the summer break we welcomed our new headmistress Mrs Adams whom we hope will be very happy here at St Mary's and we look forward to involving her in SMA life!

Various meetings were first on the Agenda in September. As well as welcoming new Class Representatives, which for this year we had a fantastic response, we also welcomed new committee members to the SMA namely Lisa Williams, Melissa Shah, Marcia Krishman, Lydia Harrison and Liz Franklin We warmly welcome you ladies.

The **100 Club** once again started recruiting new members for 2018/19 and whilst we sadly did not get as many as previous years, we still had enough to run it making a profit of £40. Our congratulations to all the winners so far.

We held a **Coffee morning** in October which was open to everyone and we were delighted to welcome quite a few visitors. We all enjoyed coffee, tea, biscuits and a chat!

Our annual **Frost Fair** once again was a huge success. We had a fantastic selection of outside stallholders selling all kinds of lovely things and our class stalls were truly fabulous, all very festively decorated, and we even had Beauty & the Beast's beautiful Belle for the children to have a photograph with! We held a competition for the 'Best Festively dressed stall' The prize was eventually awarded to Year 3 for their hoopla, and was judged by our Bursar Mr Martin. Visitors of all ages enjoyed walking around purchasing gifts from stalls and enjoying participating in the fun and games, plus face-painting and pottery decorating for everyone to enjoy. Mulled wine and mince pies, delicious turkey baps and hot dogs as well as tasty cakes were bought and enjoyed, not forgetting visits to our lovely Santa and elves in their grotto! Once again the baskets and hampers created and donated by our classes for the Raffle were fabulous and held all kinds of themes and goodies. Sadly Roma, the little pony who was supposed to be at the fair, did not turn up as his horsebox broke down, but the lady has assured me that he can come to Fun Day this year instead.

We were very kindly sponsored again by Gibbs Gillespie in GX who did advertising on our behalf by way of boards around the area, plus giving a very generous donation of £250 for our fund, we thank them very much for that. This contributed to the event raising a total of £4,064 which is fantastic! A big thank you to everyone for their help in putting this together and for those who visited and participated.

We did not run the Christmas card project this year as we had not been able to communicate with the lady who runs but will aim to hold it again in October/November this year.

The **Christmas parties** for the Early Years & Prep girls were held just before the end of term with luckily no weather interruptions this year! They all had a lot of fun playing games and dancing thanks to our marvellous entertainer Paula, who dressed in her princess and Christmas outfits keeping the girls well

entertained. They all enjoyed a tea and visit from Santa and his loyal Elf, who presented them all with special party bags to take home.

We received a little extra donation from Layered Lounge, a home furnishings company set up by an ex parent and SMA member who held a special Christmas evening at the Bull Hotel in Gerrards Cross and our Chamber Choir very kindly went along and sang some carols, which they and all their visitors much appreciated and enjoyed!

We were pleased to receive vouchers from Rowan Garden Centre for our **Christmas Tree fundraiser scheme**, which is 10% given of the retail sales of trees purchased, of £400 which is great and the vouchers always put to good use, were used as prizes in our Bingo Eve raffle. Thank you to all who purchased their trees at Rowan Garden Centre, we are most grateful.

The first event of 2019 and Lent term was the **Middle School Disco** just before half term. Years 6 and 7, together with pupils from other nearby schools, were invited along to enjoy the Disco and tuck shop held at St Mary's. Our huge thanks to the ladies for organising and running these. As ever it was extremely well attended and enjoyed, and raised £ 863 for our fund.

Our **Family Bingo Evening** was held in the Senior Hall a couple of weeks ago and was a great evening. It was extremely well attended with almost 100 tickets sold, both adults and children. Guests had fun playing the Bingo games for cash prizes expertly and amusingly run by our resident caller, Mrs Hurst's husband, Martin. Our cash bar was kept busy and we held a small raffle which was very popular. With pizza, popcorn and crisps to nibble on, everyone had a really good time raising £952!

The **Easyfundraising** scheme has raised £425 during 2018, sadly I note that this is only half compared to last year! We are constantly plugging this brilliant scheme and trying to encourage parents and staff to enrol in this scheme which is so easy, and raises funds through online purchases of everything. We really should be earning a lot more through this and we will be endeavouring to continue to get everyone to sign up. It's fundraising without doing anything! Just by doing what you would normally do, when ordering online.

Our main expenditure and donation this year was to provide £14,000 for the school to purchase and set up a fabulous new fitness suite in the Sports Hall; The SMA Fitness Suite. This facility is a great asset to the sports centre for the older girls to use and some of the SMA came and officially opened the suite and even had a little 'go' on the equipment! To be able to provide things like this makes all the work involved in the SMA's fundraising really worth it.

Our fundraising total up to date for 2018/19 is in excess of £8800 which is brilliant.

Sadly Tania Lawrance has stepped down as Treasurer, although she is still operating it at present until she fully recovers from her recent operations. Tania has been our Treasurer for quite a few years and we thank her for all the time, help and support she has given to the SMA during this time. She will be passing the roll on to Sara Morton who very kindly offered her services. Sara was treasurer of the SMA for many years prior to Tania, so we warmly welcome her back.

A huge thank you must be made to our SMA Committee and all the Class Representatives, for everyone's continued help, time and support in making all our events so successful.

To Mrs Adams, Mrs Sylvester and all the office staff for their support, kindness and help. Thanks to our Bursar, Mr Martin and Caretakers, Mr Long, Mr Gutteridge and Mr Petersen, for their continuous help. Most of all, thank you to all parents for supporting us by participating in our events, their generosity in our fundraising is invaluable and very appreciated.

Finally, from Mrs Hurst: "This really is my last year with the SMA and St Mary's as my youngest daughter will leave in 2020. I propose that we hold next year's AGM later and I will carry on in my role right until the end of the summer term 2020."

We now look forward to another profitable year with our Mother's Day Sale this month, Wine Tasting evening in May, Fun Days, Frost Fair 2019 and more!!

This concludes the Chairman's report for 2018

Julie Hurst, Chair