

MRC Parents AGM 20th Oct. 2020

Chairperson's Report 2019-20

As I write, we have emerged from the strict lockdown imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are learning to live, study and work with continued restrictions on our interactions. Our children have returned to school, operating in 'bubbles', having spent 6 months studying from home with all the challenges that presents. They are adapting well to the changes concerning where and how they learn and move around school to minimise the chances of infection. Such unusual times! On behalf of the committee, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr Edwards and all the staff at MRC for their care and support for our children under extremely challenging circumstances.

As a result of the lockdown we were unable to hold our AGM on 28th April at which we had hoped to celebrate the successes of the previous year and look forward to other planned events. The good news is that since our last AGM, thanks to generous sponsorship from local businesses and excellent support for both the Movie Night in July 2019 and last November's Fireworks Night, **we have been able to donate £15,000** to the College towards IT upgrades and floodlighting for the Multi Use Games Area, a truly amazing achievement. This exceeds last year's total of £6,000. We have also donated £300 to cover cost of new equipment for the DT department. Thank you to all who have supported our events to make this level of fundraising possible. **We are shortly to hand over a further £5,000** to enable the floodlighting work to be completed.

Sadly, we had to **cancel the Quiz Night in March and the Open-Air Movie Night planned for July**. With the current uncertainties about what will be permissible or desirable given the pandemic, we have also taken the difficult decision to **postpone the 2020 Fireworks Night planned for November**. Naturally, we are disappointed as these are all major fundraisers. We have worked hard to raise the profile of MRC Parents in order to be more effective at fundraising and providing a forum for parents and hope that this new impetus will be sustained.

Our regular forums have also been put on hold. We welcomed new parents at the Autumn term forum and heard from the Principal, Mr Edwards, about last year's highlights and priorities for the coming year. At this stage, we are uncertain when future forums will be possible due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Regular updates can be found on the [MRC Parents Facebook page](#) and the [MRC](#)

[Parents page](#) on the College website. I am grateful to Janet Gibbs, Wendy Brown and Jackie Saffery for their support with sending out emails and posting updates.

Looking forward, our **rescheduled AGM** will take place online on **Tuesday, 20th October, starting at 6.30pm**. Many of the current committee have served for several years and our children will be coming to the end of their time at MRC in June 2021. **We therefore will be standing down at this AGM and are looking for some willing volunteers to step into these roles**. Some committee members have volunteered to stay on so there will be some continuity. The committee is made up of the following roles: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We also co-opted a Vice Chair to expand our capacity. The good news is that blueprints for all the events are now in place which makes running them so much easier. The current committee members are happy to support the new committee during a handover period. **Please do consider whether this is something you could do**. It would be such a shame if it were necessary to close down such a successful MRC Parents group through a lack of volunteers. **Please contact me or Hilary O'Sullivan (Secretary) prior to the AGM if you wish to stand for one if these roles; do get in touch if you would like to find out more about what each role entails**.

It has been a privilege and joy to work with such a dedicated group of people over the past few years. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated fundraising team for their role in helping to organise such high-profile events and to our local community sponsors. Also, to Mr Paul Thompson, our SLT link member for his encouragement and support. A huge thank you to my fellow committee members Hilary, Gina and Angela for their enthusiasm and hard work. It is amazing what can be achieved when people work together. I hope that this will continue to be the case and that MRC Parents will go from strength to strength.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita Haigh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light grey rectangular box.

Anita Haigh

Chair, MRC Parents Committee.

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