

School Summary/Highlight report to ATPA

December 2016 AGM

2015-16 Financial year:

The school has worked with the ATPA to offer opportunities for a higher profile amongst parents, and to continue to target funds to support that benefits the maximum possible number of students. The ATPA supported the school to a total of **£10,673**, a similar total to previous years.

1. Specific grants:

A new development has been providing the funds for purchasing the school planner for each child, allied with new advertising in the planner for the ATPA. This was felt by the ATPA to be a positive step; the first thing that each child- and parent- receives when they start at school would be a free planner sponsored by the ATPA. The cost was £1,625.

The ATPA supported the purchase of large noticeboards around the school, enabling subjects to display more exemplar student work. This was an example of the Development Trust and the ATPA working together to improve the school, with the Trust previously providing funds to decorate the corridors.

A major bid for iPads was put in separately by the Art and Drama departments. The ATPA felt that these applications needed to be refined, and needed to include an opportunity for all students to use the equipment and not just A level groups. As a result both departments cooperated on a joint bid that included use into year 9 as a “taster” for creative video and image editing. The outcome has been a successful increase in numbers for Film Studies and for Photography, as well as a successful project- “Echoes”- on the First World War involving lower school students and London Livery companies.

2. Smaller continuing grants:

The ATPA continues to support the mini buses and the costs of maintenance and running each year. In addition, the ATPA has continued to support the costs of affiliation to as large a range as possible of sports, partly from the Olympic legacy, to allow as many teams as possible to take part in local and regional activities. This is greatly valued by the school. The ATPA further supports achievement vouchers, sports cups and shields engraving, and prize giving awards.

3. Summary:

The smaller and continuing grants to the school are vital, for example in freeing up the budget for PE to focus on spending that is directly targeted at learning.

The principle behind all of these supporting funds has been that the ATPA looks to support activities and projects that benefit the maximum number of students. There has been some debate about whether to continue to support PE; the school's position is that it would otherwise have to consider cutting down the number of sports on offer, or alternatively the PE budget for students would have to be used for affiliations to sporting bodies. These affiliations have helped to develop an approach within whole school PE where there is a huge range of sports on offer, from table tennis and badminton to girl's rugby, basketball and netball. This range means that as many students as possible can find a sport that they enjoy, and therefore begin to establish the enjoyment of sport and fitness that will ensure a healthy lifestyle in future. This formed part of the core argument for our (successful) application to secure government funding via the Diocese for a new Sports Hall. Having prizes and awards sponsored by the ATPA also helps to increase the opportunities for all children to succeed, as without this funding the school would have to consider cutting down the prizes and awards available.

4. Developments into 2016-17

The ATPA and the Development Trust Chairs met to ensure that there is a clear rationale behind the activities of each group, and to find areas of cooperation. It was agreed, for example, that the ATPA could work more closely with the students via the School Council. One practical result has been the application by the School Council for funds for a water fountain. The School Business and Development Manager is also the school's representative on the Development Trust, so both groups can be kept informed of developments and mutually beneficial activities.

In the near future there is a need to look at fundraising for a new minibus, as one of our current buses is nearing the end of its long life. In addition, the ATPA might wish to consider a separate campaign to support something specific within the sports hall, to work in tandem with the Development Trust and the School Council. The School Council is planning a series of events in 2017 to raise funds, and the Development Trust is committed to the external costs of the build to £100,000. Once built, there will be opportunities for providing items inside such as electronic basketball nets, an electronic score board, and cricket nets.

Prepared by Gareth Balch - School Business and Development Manager

Agreed by Nicki Still – ATPA Chair (Pre AGM)