

PARENT STAFF ASSOCIATION

Newsletter - May 2009

WANTED - £50,000!

Becoming a Specialist Arts College, which we aim to do, would be terrific for Allerton Grange, bringing in funding that would benefit the whole school. But applying for specialist status comes with a price tag: we need to put up £50,000 to support our bid and demonstrate our commitment – and that's an enormous sum.

We would get it back, and lots more besides if we were successful, but the problem is that the school just doesn't have that sort of money. It needs to be raised through donations and special events – which is where the Parent Staff Association comes in.

Our fund-raising efforts have been fairly haphazard in the past, but the school's need for £50,000 has given us something to really focus on, and that's exactly what we're doing.

It was a feast of nostalgia for Allerton Grangers past and present: former pupils could take a tour of their old school and leaf through vintage photos.



A trip down Memory Lane

There was also a video booth for recording memories of the school, live music, stalls, an art auction and two cabaret evenings featuring excerpts from the school's most successful musicals over the years, several of them performed by former students.

Friends United got the school's fund-raising off to a flying start, and since then there have been further efforts, including Dress Up Day, when students and staff paid for the privilege of wearing fancy dress or outfits from years gone by and raised £750.



Former students reunited at the gala

We got involved in helping to plan and run the school's first money-raising event, the Friends United gala in March.



In the pink on Dress Up Day

By the end of April, the funds raised for our Specialist School application had passed £5,000, with a similar amount being offered in the form of software, which would count towards the total – but there is still a long way to go.



Art for sale at the gala

PSA members have been meeting regularly to discuss further ways of raising money, and in addition to organising a rota of volunteers to collect donations at school events – a scheme which began at the Sports Awards evening – they have started to draw up a list of potential events. Ideas on the table so far include a Bollywood night, a fun run, a film club, car boot sales and reviving the PSA's 100 Club – but the first event will be a quiz.

PSA QUIZ NIGHT

The date for your diaries is *Friday June 12th*, and the venue is A-Block hall. This will be a very relaxed general knowledge quiz with the emphasis on having a fun evening. There will be a raffle and light-hearted games such as “Cluedo” and “Who am I?” with separate prizes. The quiz is for teams of six players, and you can either enter as a full team or on your own, since individuals will be sorted into teams on the night.

We will be running a bar serving wine, beer and soft drinks, and a fish and chip supper or vegetarian curry will be included in the cost of your ticket. The price is £8 per person, and tickets can be ordered using the tear-off slip on the quiz information sheet which was sent to all parents. If for any reason you didn't receive one, you will find a copy of the information sheet in the PSA section of the website, which you can print up and use.

If the PSA's drive to help the school raise £50,000 is to be a success, it needs the support of as many parents and carers as possible. If you can help in any way, please contact us by e-mail:

allertongrangepsa@leedslearning.net

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Or come along to the Annual General Meeting of the PSA on *Thursday July 2nd* at 6.00pm in the City Learning Centre Auditorium. This is a vital meeting, at which the officers for the coming year will be elected, and any parents or carers who haven't attended PSA meetings before will find this a very good place to start.

The PSA is *your* organisation, giving you the opportunity to become more involved in your child's schooling; meeting with other parents and members of staff to discuss school matters; learning more about school policies and practices; voicing your opinions; giving feedback; putting your individual skills and knowledge at the disposal of the school; helping to organise social events; raising funds and much more. So, please ..

SUPPORT YOUR PSA