



ASHFORD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

Ashford School Association

Ashford School, Saturday 29 June 2019, 12:45

Committee Attendees: Carolyn Chamberlain (ASA President, CC), Hannah Pinney (Alumni Officer, HP), Julie Piper (JP), Norma Smyth (Vice-President, NS), Sarah Kershaw (Director of External Relations, SK) & Mike Hall (Headmaster, MH)

Apologies: Nicky Brightling, Suki Athwal & Toby Harris

1. Welcome by the President

CC welcomed all those present to the meeting & noted that it was lovely to have the reunion and AGM in the summer.

CC gave a special welcome to Michael Hall, the new Headmaster. CC also thanked Sarah Kershaw for her work on the ASA after David's leaving, and welcomed Hannah Pinney, the new Alumni Officer.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were circulated and approved as a true and accurate record. They were signed & dated by CC.

3. Election of Officers

Chairman

Julie Piper stood for election as Chairman. She was nominated for Chairman by Val Davies, and this was seconded by Norma Smyth (ASA Vice-President). Julie was unanimously voted in by those present.

Secretary

Hannah Pinney stood for election as Hon. Secretary. She was nominated for Hon. Secretary by Margaret Williams (Former Deputy Head), and this was seconded by Julie Piper (ASA Chair). Hannah was unanimously voted in by those present.

4. Hon. Treasurer's Report 2018 Accounts

As received from Nicky Brightling ahead of Saturday 29 June 2019

"Firstly, my apologies for missing the AGM today.

In your papers there is a summary of the income and expenditure during the period 1 January to 31 December 2018.

We received £88 from 13 standing orders which have not been cancelled by members despite several attempts to contact them. Until 31 December 2011, it cost £6 per annum to be a member of the Ashford School Association and membership fees were collected by annual standing order. This system was abolished from 1 January 2012 but unfortunately 13 standing orders remain. It was



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agreed at the 2016 AGM that all subsequent standing orders received would be donated to the Ashford School Foundation, given we had exhausted all the available means to contact those members who had not cancelled their standing orders.

We also received interest from the Santander account of £30.91 in 2018. The only expense in the year was the transfer of £100 to the Ashford School Foundation being the amount received via standing orders in 2017.

Overall the reserves increased by £18.91 to £9,366.03. The funds held in the NATWEST account as at 31 December 2018 was £289.08 and £9,076.95 was the amount held in the Santander deposit account.

The Tom Watts Travel Awards

2018/19 was the third year the annual travel award in memory of the School's former bursar, Mr Tom Watts, was advertised by the School to leavers. Unfortunately, there were no applications made to the Tom Watts Travel award (£1,000 per annum) for 2018/19 therefore the award has been carried forward to 2019/20 and we hope to make a double award of £2,000 later this year. Ashford School provides the funds for the annual award."

CC added that those who received the award should do a write up for the school, with photographs. HP agreed, and highlighted the latest edition of the School Tie which featured articles from three TWA recipients: Harry Lancaster, Georgina Williams & Brandon Chia.

5. President's Report

Carolyn Chamberlain

CC thanked SK for holding the reins after David's departure.

CC noted the huge job which was keeping the ASA database up to date and offered her assistance in looking through members.

CC reported the ways in which members would receive information from the Alumni Office. Everyone who has an email will receive a termly newsletter, and an e-version of the School Tie. Those with a UK postal address will also receive a printed copy of the School Tie in the post.

Carolyn spoke of the sad passing of Sandra Noel and highlighted her Obituary in the School Tie. CC remembered her father who used to come into School to give lectures in Coronation about his Everest Expeditions. Sandra was a day bug, at a time when there were 5 boarding houses and 2 day houses (Chaucer Pilgrims & Chaucer Merchants).

CC advised the members present of the manner in which she used to collate news in years past for the OGA School Tie. She encouraged everyone to share their news with the Alumni Office.

CC highlighted "The Lilian Brake Society", which is for those wishing to leave a legacy to the Ashford School Foundation, and asked Val Davies (Ambassador for the Legacy Club) to speak briefly about it. Val noted she was particularly interested in getting involved as she was a war baby, whose father had sadly died during the war. It was the RAF benevolent fund who paid half of her school fees to Ashford, and so the importance of offering bursaries and funding to those less able was of particular importance to her. CC added that they had a successful lunch launching the Lilian Brake Society at



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the Carlton Club in London (whose Event Manager is fellow Alumni Frances Jones). CC encouraged members to share information about the legacy club with their relatives who might be interested in getting involved.

CC also mentioned the 2017 Telethon that took place, which has allowed her to give regularly to the bursary fund, which will continue to pay for a child whose parents are in financial difficulty. CC thought it would be a good idea to do another Telethon at some point in the future.

CC & Val Davies also noted that it would be wonderful for ASA Members to help share the history of the School with current and future generations of pupils. For example, Cranmer is named so because Cranmer wrote his litany sitting on the lawn where it is now based. Brooke Place is named after the poet Rupert Brooke. CC suggested that ASA members look to write a couple of lines about different places within the school, which could then be displayed on plaques. MH agreed this was a lovely idea, and CC agreed to start work on this.

CC advised everyone that they could view the guest list on postcards that were on everyone's place settings. These also contained an invite to the President's Lunch on Saturday 16 November at the Royal Academy, which she also encouraged alumni to attend.

CC declared the AGM closed at 13:20.

Head's Report

The Head's Report was delivered during the ASA Summer Lunch. CC asked that it also be minuted.

MH reported that it had been a packed first year at the School. He gave insight into some of the overarching achievements that the school has enjoyed.

- Earlier in the year Ashford was recognised by the Times Educational Supplement (TES) as one of the leading independent Schools in Education Technology and one of the best Prep Schools in the country.
- MH reported that classroom refurbishments are underway at the Senior School and the new Stables Nursery and Pavilion at the Prep School are due to open in the next few months. Significant developments to the East Hill site are also to be announced in the next few months.

MH reported some key facts & figures for the School:

- There are currently just under 1000 children in Ashford School, and the split is 50% girls 50% boys.
- There are 160 Boarders, almost all of whom are international coming from 24 different countries.
- There have been a total of 880 sports fixtures played across the Prep and Senior School this year. Notable achievements include: U11A Boys' and Girls' teams reaching the IAPS Hockey Nationals, in which the girls were placed fifth in the country; 20 swimmers qualified and competed at the IAPS Great British Swimming Championships at the Olympic Park; nine athletes have qualified for the IAPS National Athletics Finals; the School boasts 2 GB swimmers and a GB Modern Pentathlete.



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- There have been over 10 Concerts performed this year at the Prep & Senior Schools, along with 2 large scale productions – Grease and Oliver.
- Speech and Drama students took part in the Hastings and Kent Festivals, and won 11 awards, including Best Senior Performance.
- The Arts continue to flourish. A Year 12's art piece was placed second in the International High School Arts Festival Competition, and was selected to be exhibited in The National Art Centre in Tokyo. A Year 13 student won The National School Photography Awards.
- We welcomed Robot Sanbot Elf to the Prep and Senior Schools to investigate the potential of AI usage in the classroom, although it did not go so far to teach a lesson!
- The School won the ETA Schools Award, in which they exceeded the national standard of Education Technology provision.
- Ashford was selected as an Edtech50 School – one of 50 Schools in the country recognised for making a difference and having an impact in the Edtech sector.
- A Year 12 student has gained a much sought-after place on a cybersecurity programme in New York, thanks to her progress in A-level computer science.
- Year 9 chemists made it to the Royal Society of Chemists Top of the Bench national finals in Birmingham, at which they were placed 21st in the Country.
- The Senior Maths team qualified for the UKMT national finals, where they were placed 16th in the country.
- The Prep School has established a Lizard Sanctuary which is home to 200 lizards.
- 81 trips have been taken and 118 co-curricular activities offered across the Senior and Prep School.
- This year, 8 students achieved their DofE Gold, and currently all Year 9s are enrolled on the Bronze scheme & 6 staff are enrolled for DofE Gold.
- Ashford School's Young Enterprise company won Best Overall Company at the area finals and Best Teamwork at the Kent finals.
- Prep School leaders raised £1091 for Save the Seas by swimming through a pool of plastic bottles.

MH highlighted the recurring theme of achieving national success and recognition.

MH noted his primary role is to lead the strategy of the whole School, striving to improve and develop Ashford without losing its core ethos, culture and history. MH noted the gifted team of teachers and team of loyal support staff who work at Ashford and was pleased to see former colleagues at the lunch.

MH's vision is that Ashford School is to be better recognised for its excellence locally, nationally & internationally, and that it empowers the pupils to make a difference. His ambition is to maintain and develop the academic rigour for all students, ensure they remain adventurous, develop a culture which celebrates individuality, and ensure they leave Ashford with the results they want but also the soft skills and assured inner confidence to be a success in the world.

MH highlighted that it was important to continue to celebrate Ashford's history, culture and ethos, and consequently that he was committed to developing the School's engagement with alumni, wanting to connect more effectively, to facilitate events which alumni want to attend, and to provide alumni with opportunities to support the School and its continued growth.



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MH thanked all present for coming and encouraged attendees to talk to their old friends and encourage them to come back.

We would like to thank the following guests for attending the ASA AGM & Summer Lunch 2019:

- Alex Blincow (Squires, 2011)
- Alexandra Playford (Knights, 2007)
- Alison Stern (Nightingale, 1989)
- Bob Wordsworth (Former Staff & Former ASA Treasurer)
- Caroline Welling (Knights, 2011)
- Elizabeth Forster (née Lowden, Merchants, 1989)
- Eloise Clark (née Collins, Somerville, 1994)
- Fiona Coad (Alfred, 1989)
- Lorraine Playford (Former Staff)
- Gill Miles (Former Staff)
- Gina Davies (Knights, 1994)
- Jessica Barnick (Knights, 2011)
- Joanna Robertson (Alfred, 1969)
- Juliet Arnold (Franklins, 2015)
- Kylie Rogers (Alfred, 1989)
- Libby Lawson (née Webb, Knights, 1989)
- Linda Diplock (Former Staff)
- Margaret Williams (Former Deputy Head)
- Merry King (Alfred, 1994)
- Nicky Timms, (Deputy Head, née Miles, Pilgrims, 1996)
- Owain Thomas (Yeoman, 2011)
- Rachel Hardy (née Cecil, Brooke Place, 1962)
- Rebecca Munnely (née Inglis, Alfred, 1994)
- Prof Sarah Pett (Brooke Place, 1979)
- Dr Shirley Goldwin (Former Staff)
- Sophie-Anna Brough (Squires, 2011)
- Thomas Barker (Franklins, 2013)
- Tom Bragge (English Teacher)
- Tom Wilding (Head of Ashford Senior School)
- Valerie Arends (née Davies, Nightingale, 1954)