

## Chairman's Report 2010/11

### Overview:

With the exception of one member, we started as an entirely new committee in November 2010 and were mostly all new parents to the Academy with children in Year 7. The most obvious downside being that none of us had any experience of life as a secondary school parent. However, we have had an amazing year. We have forged new friendships with fellow parents and the Academy staff and we have enjoyed seeing our fundraising ideas take shape. As a newly formed committee, we have built upon the good work of our predecessors, who were very small in number but incredibly dedicated in their many years of service long after their children had left the school. We have taken their knowledge and spent the past 11 months reviewing and strengthening our fundraising practices. We are required by law to compile a risk assessment for each event and we have now implemented a process to comply with our legal obligations. We have also overhauled our financial reporting systems so that we can better account for our expenditure and by so doing reduce our costs per event. We have examined too how we can best communicate with you and are pleased to be able to offer you a wide range of updates via: Twitter; the Academy website; a bi-termly newsletter; and emails.

### This Year's Events:

We held our first meeting in January of this year and agreed a Calendar of Events for the whole school and the local community to enjoy. Our first event of the year was a Quiz Night held in March that was attended by 150 people fielding 23 teams which raised a whopping £1000. We also held a Car Boot Sale in May in the small car park and had sellers travelling from South London to take part! Our final event was a stall at the Village Fayre selling Krispy Kreme Donuts which was a complete sell-out and raised a staggering £1200. We are incredibly grateful too to those individuals who have obtained matched funding for us through their employers as this has boosted our funds by around £1600 this year. Our fundraising has enabled us to provide a Defibrillator for the new building, fund the Year 11 Yearbooks, purchase a Sport's Shield, Family Trophies, and sporting medals during the year. We have also been busy re-cycling your old mobile phones and cartridges and this will continue throughout the next year.

### We could not have done it without you:

I would like to take this opportunity to record my gratitude to the people who are leaving us: Simon Orr and Claire Taylor. Claire has been our Treasurer this year and can be credited for creating an excellent financial reporting system. I would also like to thank all the Academy staff members, Mr. Millar, Mr. Pelling, Mrs. Buckingham and Mr. Lund who have given their time so freely to us. In particular I must say a special thank you to Mrs. Marion Jones, who has been an invaluable source of help, unflappable support and wisdom during this past year. I am very grateful too for all the parents and carers who continually put themselves forward to help and support us, either by assisting at events, or by attending and spending money.

### And to the Future:

This was my first year as your Chairman and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment; it has been a great pleasure to have worked alongside such an enthusiastic team of fellow parents. We welcome all the new parents who are joining the committee or who have expressed an interest in helping us. We intend to build on our work over the past 12 months and aim to surpass our fundraising total for 2010/11 and we look forward to all of you helping us to achieve that. We are kick starting our fundraising at our Christmas Fair on 26<sup>th</sup> November and we look forward to seeing you all there!

**Kate Taylor, November 2011**