**Beechen Cliff School**

**PTA**

Minutes of the meeting held on

Monday 10th September

Present: Kate Abbey, Clare Cutting, Annie Meharg, Jo Johnson, Jo Holt, Anne Priest, Lesley Leming, Vickie Wood, Tara Gretton, Katina Beckett, Jess Swales, Polly de la Goix-Vaubas, Franco de la Goix-Vaubas, Kant Mann, Amy Lodge, Sarah Mitchard, Jo Masani, Ali Adams, Stacy Gardham, Caroline Roofe, Vicki Mowat, Clare Squires, Debbie Anderson, Jacq Lewis

1. **Welcome by the Chairs.**

Annie Meharg opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Jane Griffiths, Katrina Hayes, Sue Criddle, Alexandra Bond, Emma Ford, Isobell Browell and Anne Verdonck

3. **Minutes of the last PTA**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved. They are available on the Beechen Cliff School website.

4. **Chairs Report**

Kate Abbey gave the Chairs report. She reported on a number of events that had taken place, which were great fundraisers and social events for both parents and pupils. The Riverford cooking evenings, organised by Vickie Mowat had been very successful and well supported. The PTA quiz was very popular and raised £1800. Kate highlighted the effort that Dan Keal the school chef puts into catering for this event, which is very much appreciated. The Year 7 boys enjoyed a joint disco with Haysfield and Tracey Kehoe was thanked for her help.

Kate mentioned the new system of Year Group Reps, started last academic year and she hopes that this will continue to benefit parents and help develop the sense of community.

Annie mentioned the upcoming Prospective Parents Evening and asked for volunteers to serve tea and coffee during the evening.

5. **Treasurers Report**

In Emma Ford’s absence Annie Meharg gave an update of the PTA finances. She stated that the first installment of £1000 of the £3,000 pledged to the sports department had been given to cover tournaments, kit, referees etc. Money raised from the Great Walk was spent on requests from the pupils and included photographic equipment and sports balls. All the bids submitted by pupils were met. The PTA starts this term with £3,745 available to spend

Kant Mann added that it was great for the School to have this money.

6. **School Report**

Kant Mann updated the PTA on recent events in school. He thanked the PTA for their help at the Celebration of Achievement evening at the end of last term.

Kant was able to advise the PTA that following the OFSTED report, the Statement of Action is now a working document which will be shared at a later date.

It was reported that at the start of this new term, numbers within the school are very healthy with 179 boys starting in Year 7. There were a total of 220 applications for year 7 entry and Appeals are continuing. 195 pupils are enrolled in Lower Sixth and this year there has been an increase in the number of girls attending Beechen Cliff Sixth Form.

Kant reported on The School’s exam results, which were very good, particularly in terms of value added. It was the last year of IGCSE which despite not being recognised by OFSTED, have been vouched for by both Independent Schools and Universities over the Summer. 52% of Sixth Form students gained places at Russell Group Universities.

Kant was pleased to report how well the Year 7 boys have settled. Everyone was welcomed at a Church service at St Luke’s last week. Lunch times are working well and the boys are starting their residential trips to Tir-y-Cwm. The headmaster has started shooting practice with the Year 7 boys.

Kant encouraged parents and carers of new boys, with any concerns to contact the school.

A list of Clubs and Activities will be published on the Beechen Cliff website.

Kant briefly explained the system in place for sanctions in school – there will be a system in place to allow parents to monitor their children’s behavior.

**50:50 Update** Sarah Mitchard gave an update on the 50:50 and the first prize is just over £100. The 50:50 generates an income of £400 per month, of which £200 goes to the School. There is now £2,800 in the current account. Sarah will transfer £1800 into the main PTA account.

Sarah is working hard to keep in line with the new GDPR requirements. It was agreed that access details to the 50:50 information should be kept in a safe place in School so that in her absence they can always be accessed. This information will be password protected and kept in a locked cupboard.

The PTA drew the winning numbers for June, July and August

June 1st Prize –Deborah Brosnan

June 2nd Prize –Kay May

June 3rd Prize – Natalie Duncan

July 1st Prize – Tim Johnson

July 2nd Prize – Sarah Case

July 3rd Prize – Jane McClaren

August 1st Prize – Kate Abbey

August 2nd Prize – Natalie Duncan

August 3rd Prize – Alexandra Bond

**Forthcoming Events**

**Auction of Promises**

Tracey Kehoe updated the committee on the Auction of Promises, which will take place at School on 8th March, 2019. There will be a compere and Dan Keal the School Chef will kindly provide the catering. The plan is to have a system of sealed bids alongside open bidding to allow people to bid who cannot make it to the event.

Tracey is looking for people to help get prizes and to help on the night. A letter will go out to ask for this support.

It was agreed that in order to raise as much money as possible it is important to have something specific needed for the school. Kant Mann is going to check back with School and provide some suggestions.

**Ceilidh**

Clare Cutting informed the committee that the Ceilidh would be on Friday 16th November in the main School Hall. A band is booked and Dan the School Chef is able to provide the catering. It was decided to charge £10 per ticket and this will include the entertainment and food. There will be a paying bar.

Clare will need some help to set up on the evening, run the bar, and clear up at the end. A notice will go out in the newsletter in the next couple of weeks.

**Riverford**

Vicki Wood summarised the Riverford events run for the parents and carers of each Year group last academic year. She also reminded the PTA of the scheme whereby Riverford will donate money to a School of choice when somebody signs up for a regular vegetable box delivery. This system has already successfully raised money for the School.

This year Vicki is considering running cookery evenings similar to the ones last year, possibly combining two year groups at a time. She is going to look at some potential dates and discuss these with Annie and Kate.

**Joint Year 7 Disco and BBQ night with Haysfield**

There is a possibility of Beechen hosting this event within the next couple of weeks. Annie and Kate are going to speak to Sarah as to the viability of this being organised in the short time required.

**Parents’ Open Evening**

There was a request for help to serve tea and coffee during the evening.

**Fireworks Night**

BANES are happy for the PTA to serve food for this event in the Park as it is a one off, however due to it being within the half term holiday it was agreed that it would be difficult to organise.

**Funding Requests**

**Water Fountains**

Anne Priest and Jo Holt put forward a clearly researched request for new or improved water fountains in school. The different ways of funding this were discussed and Kant Mann is going to discuss it with the site team.

The benefits of improved water fountains for the boys and the environment were discussed and Kant also advised that there are now more recycling bins in the school.

**Storage Boxes**

Sarah Evans, the Pastoral PA requested some storage boxes for storing second hand uniform. It was agreed that the PTA will fund these.

**Second hand Uniform**

Amy Lodge and Leslie Leming offered to help organise the second hand uniform. Jo Masani will also be part of the team.

**St John’s Foundation**

Kant Mann will revisit this possible source of funding with the School and report back.

**Any other business**

**Give as You Live**

Annie highlighted the benefits of ‘’Give as You Live’ for the School, details of which are on the PTA Website and it was agreed that there could be a push on this coming up to Christmas.

There was a request to use the shed by the rugby pitch to serve teas and coffees from during weekend sporting fixtures. Money made would go to the PTA. It was agreed that this was a good idea and Kant Mann said that this should be possible.

**Date and Time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday 22nd October at 7pm in the staff room.