

PFA NEWS

Coombe Girls' School Parents & Friends Association

Upcoming events

Second hand uniform on sale

On **Friday 12 January at 3pm** the PFA will be holding a second hand uniform sale outside the school hall. We'll have skirts, trousers, shirts and PE kit available for sale. So if your daughter has recently out grown her uniform, then come along and see if you can find a replacement item.

Coffee morning

We organise coffee mornings on the first Saturday of each month from 10am - 12pm at The Willow, 16 The Triangle, New Malden. But in January our meeting is postponed and will take place on **Saturday 13 January**. All are welcome.

Quiz night soon

Our winter quiz night is scheduled **Friday 23 February**. Always a good and challenging night for you to test your trivia knowledge. Watch for notice to book your places.

Coombe's big build makes big progress



As part of our efforts to upgrade some of the school facilities, the school kicked off the Big Build project in October.

One of the first projects in the plan was the landscaping of the quadrant and the building of the gabion cages, which we reported on in our last newsletter. Now thanks to the generous donation of one school parent, the cages have wood tops to create benches. Gary Colquhoun, whose company Wardroom Premise, not only sourced the timber but also provided the time and expertise to finish the tops.

With the additional seating in place, landscaping is the next challenge. We've recently added 20 shrubs, to create a natural border between the seating and the green space behind. These were paid for by a student who identified the Big Build as the school improvement project they wished to spend their £250 award from the Jack Petchey Foundation on.

The school has a further £500 – generously donated by New Malden Rotary club, and this will be used for landscaping of the green area bordering the seating in the spring. The PFA will be seeking volunteers during the Spring term to help with this stage of the works, so keep your diary free.

A bumper year for our festive fund raising

The annual Winter Wonderland Fair in November was a great success, as the school hall was jammed full of students and guests the minute the bell rang to signal the end of the school day and the start of the fair.

The girls looked like they were having a great time, and the stalls did a roaring trade. The waffles, candy floss and milkshakes were sell outs. While many students who got into the festive spirit at the winter inspired makeup stall and the festive photo booth. The external stalls also had a busy trading time.

The online auction proved a good alternative to the usual Christmas raffle, beating all previous fund-raising targets. Perhaps it was the range of amazing prizes – from ice skating at Hampton Court, gin tasting at the nearby local Silent Pool distillery to great offers of a holiday in Cyprus, wine, vinyl and chocolates! There was fierce bidding for the whole of the auction period and - as items were being added continuously right up to the end of the auction - people kept returning to bid.

Overall the events helped raise nearly £5000 to go towards the school. Of course, none of it would have been possible for without our volunteers and the generous donations from our sponsors.



We would like to thank all of those parents and 6th form students who came to either help set up, man a stall or donate items to the tombola and raffle. It really was a team effort and we couldn't have done it without your support. We hope your daughters enjoyed our new style fair, which will return again next year.

Special thanks to all our sponsors, who are listed below. Also thanks to our prize donors: Susan Lupolz, Sue O'Hagan, Lesley Bleakley, Margie and Mike McCartan, Shakeel Ahmad,

Denise McKinnell, Rhiannon Pearson, Bansri Dodhia, Lindsay Delic, Saul Billingsley.

Our Silent Auction sponsors

Abel & Cole; Al Forno; Albany Park Canoe and Sailing Centre; Banquet Records; Cashmere Rebel; Churchods; Costa coffee; Danceforce; Epsom Downs Racecourse; Fake it Tanning & Beauty; Flowers 2; Garsons; Gordana; H2 Architecture; Hampton Court Palace; Hello 2morrow Ltd; House of Sewing; Jeffries Butchers; Kempton Park Racecourse; Kingston Ice Cream; Lilac Room; Lucinda Walsh School of Dance; Malden Centre; Milk & More; Mr Stanley's; Oliver Bonas; Ollie Lloyd Tennis; Pedal Studio; Pilates with Nicole; Sainsbury's; School Zone; Silent Pool; Specsavers; Squires Garden Centre; Suttles of Malden; The Norbiton (pub); The Park Brewery; The Rose Theatre; The Willow; Tudor Williams; Venture Photography; Wagamama; Wendy's Workshop; White Spider (climbing); Woofs a Daisy

Coombe hosts carols by candlelight

The Coombe Schools Federation hosted the annual Carols by Candlelight at St James's Church in New Malden on Monday 18 December 2017.

It was a fantastic evening showcasing a whole array of musical performances from both schools.

Over 400 parents, carers, staff and friends of Coombe schools attended the event, with refreshments in the church hall after the event, provided by the PFA from both Coombe Girls and Boys School.

Edmund Houlston, Coombe Head of Music said: "It was an amazing evening which really captured the Christmas spirit and the feedback from parents and staff has been touching and very supportive."

"A big thank you must go to the students, staff, parents and friends of the school who continually support musical events at Coombe."



Following the success of this event, plans are already underway for the next musical event at the schools - the summer concert set for 28 June.

PFA CALENDAR	
DATE	EVENT
9 January	PFA Meeting - 6:30pm in the LRC
12 January	Second hand uniform sale
13 January	PFA Coffee morning - 10-12 The Willow
1 & 2 February	School Play - School Hall
23 February	PFA Winter Quiz
6 March	PFA Meeting - 6:30pm in the LRC
1 May	PFA Meeting - 6:30pm in the LRC
22 May	Summer Raffle - Prize Draw
15 June	MUFTI day (non-uniform) - fundraiser for Malden Fortnight
19 June	PFA Meeting - 6:30pm in the LRC
22 June	PFA Summer Quiz - School Hall
28 June	Summer Concert - School Hall
6 July	New Parents' (2018) Welcome Evening
14 July	Malden Fortnight - New Malden High Street

PFA learns more about exam planning

The past three years has seen an unprecedented level of change for the GCSE and A level exams. Schools nationwide have had a few years reviewing their activities and structure to prepare for the new format. At Coombe Girls' School, Susan Law, the Director of Examination, has been responsible for the preparation. She tells us about her role and what she does.

Q. What does the role of Director of Examinations involve?

A. The role comes with a number of responsibilities including:

- Organising all aspects of external examinations including entries, distribution and checking of exam timetables, exam access arrangements, checking and storage of exam papers, identifying and making arrangements for candidates with exam clashes.
- Dealing with Joint Council for Qualifications inspection of our centre when conducting examinations.
- Recruiting, training and managing a team of invigilators.
- Advising students, parents and external candidates around exams, re-sits, illness, and results. This can include meeting with parents and candidates during the summer or autumn term to discuss appropriate Exam Enquiries About Results (EAR).

Q. How long have you been doing this role?

A. I started my role as Director of Examinations at Easter 2010. At the time, I was also teaching Mathematics, mainly in KS5 and was just completing my tenth and final year as a Head of Year in the sixth form. I retired from teaching in Summer 2015

Q. Who do you work most closely with in this role?

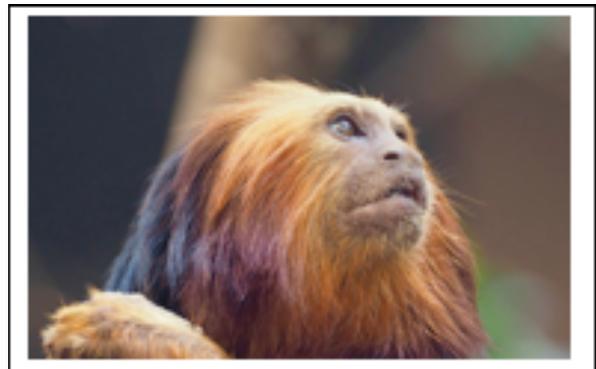
A. I work closely with my line manager, two exam assistants, the invigilation team, Heads of Departments, students and/or parents who have exam queries and the school SENCO.

Q. What has been the biggest challenges with the current changes to GCSE and A-levels?

A. The most obvious challenge is getting to know the new exam codes and providing for the increase in the number and length of exams that students need to do at the end of their course. This has also affected the number and length of mock exams that we run in school.

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. Since giving up teaching Maths at Coombe, I have joined the local camera club. I bought a manual camera and now enjoy taking photographs for club competitions and as a record of places I've visited or events I've seen.



Choosing a favourite photograph from 2017 is very difficult, but this one entitled 'Who called me ginger?' is one of my favourites. It is of a Golden Lion Tamarin taken at London Zoo.

I like the blurred background that prevents distraction from the monkey and it makes you wonder what s/he is thinking!

Coombe PFA welcomes contact from parents, guardians or carers of students at Coombe Girls's School. You can get in contact with us by email at: cos.pfa@gmail.com