

PTA News

NBHS Parent Teacher Association

Newsletter #2, September 2018

What is the PTA and why do we exist?

Parents, carers and teachers form the PTA, which supports the school in its activities and fundraises for the benefit of the pupils.

Whether we like it or not, there is no 'extra' money going to schools in the current economic climate. Increasingly, the PTA is being asked to fund items and activities

that make a real difference to your child's educational experience – as well as the occasional fun activity that the school budget simply cannot meet. It's therefore hugely important that we all pull together in supporting the PTA in any way we can, big or small.

Preparing for the year ahead

The AGM on Thursday, 20th September at 7pm marks the start of our new year of fundraising. Please come along if you want to get involved. Each year we need new people and new, fresh ideas to keep the PTA alive and strong at North Berwick High School. We say goodbye this year to our Chair - Sandra Gemmell, our Treasurer – Catherine Amis and our Prize Draw Administrator – Patricia Gibb. Teacher member, Hannah Fox, is also standing down this year. Thank you, ladies, for your amazing contribution to the PTA, you've done a brilliant job – you'll be missed!



Thank You

Thank you to NBHS families, friends, staff and local businesses who support us. Without your generosity, the PTA wouldn't be able to fund the projects, opportunities and experiences that NBHS pupils currently benefit from.

Thank you to all those generous businesses who continue to provide us with prizes, donations and cash!

Thanks to all you parents, carers and other family members who:

- come along to our events and buy our teas/coffees/wine/cakes and raffle tickets;
- offer to help at all our events serving refreshments and provide baking;
- have signed up to the PTA Monthly Prize Draw and continue to support this every year;
- have signed up to 'Easyfundraising' and named us as your chosen charity.

Finally, a special thank you to all the pupils and the staff (office ladies, management, teachers and janitors) who support the PTA at our various events - we couldn't do it without you!

What Did Your PTA Achieve in 2017/18?

New Equipment

Last Year our biggest fundraising achievement was handing over a cheque for £4,274 for the purchase of a brand new, much needed projector for our main hall. The projector is yet to arrive in school but we will keep you updated on the progress of that. £2,000 of the cost was provided by a donation from North Berwick Golf Club's Community Fund, which helped us reach our fundraising goal quicker than expected. We are all looking forward to seeing the new projector make its debut in school soon!



Supporting Mental Health Initiatives

Over the year, £871 was used to cover costs relating to mental health awareness and support in school. Some of the money was used to support the provision of the "Mind Your Head" app to all pupils. The support room received a makeover thanks to PTA donations, and monies were also used to assist with the costs of having the school's very first Mental Wellbeing Week, which again involved all pupils and staff. Highlights from the week included talks from authors Debi Gliori

and Dion Leonard. Each author gave very moving and inspirational accounts of some of the challenges they have faced and continue to face. Undoubtedly, this was a brilliant way to engage in a conversation about mental health, and I don't think any of the children will ever forget meeting the adorable Gobi.



It's The Little Things That Really Count

The PTA love to support requests for small cash injections from different areas of the school. Last year, £150 helped towards travel costs for students to attend maths competitions. A small donation of £100 was made following a request from the computer club – we'll keep you updated soon on how they used the money to improve their experience. £100 has also been earmarked for the enterprise club, and the Senior team from last year requested £150 to set up the school's new House Points System – a legacy that the team were really proud of, and the PTA were extremely proud to support it. It's important to remember that your school's pupils and staff are so very appreciative of the extra money provided by the PTA. A lot of hard work and effort from the CDT department made this particular goal a reality. We are really proud of all the staff who run clubs and help your children – they really do go beyond the call. Thank you!



A Year of Fundraising in 2017/18 - Events

During the last academic year we had many successful fundraising events. Each year, we support the school during the Spring and Christmas concerts by providing refreshments and organizing raffles. We were supported by the kindness of our wonderful parenting community with the most delicious homebaking for the Spring concert last year. Intermission in the dining hall, whether with a cuppa, a cake and a blether in the Spring, or a cup of hot punch and a mince pie at Christmas, really makes the occasion special, but it also raises lots of cash, in fact, our two concerts last year raised just over £1400!

We also held 2 very successful, fun events last year: a live band karaoke event alongside Law Primary PTA, and our annual 6th year Burns Supper for all our final year students and their families. We know that everyone had a fantastic time, and both events raised over £2,800! It's so important you continue to support these wonderful events.

This medley of pictures is probably the best way we can sum up all the fun we had!



Other Ways We Fundraise

Our Monthly Prize draw is undoubtedly the best way you can easily financially assist with our fundraising. It's only a one-off payment of £18 for the year, which gives you 12 chances to win a cash prize. Each month, two lucky winners share in a prize fund of £75. More importantly, the membership income from the prize draw over the last year was over £3,500. Please, please, please – if you do nothing else, join our prize draw. It's the hassle-free way to support your PTA and your school. Please message us NOW at ptanbhs@gmail.com and our Prize Draw Administrator, Alison Kinnie, will contact you. Thank you!

You can also donate throughout the year using our "MYDONATE" button which is on our pages on the school website, as well as our facebook page. Other initiatives such as Easyfundraising and donations from Merryhatton Garden Centre when you purchase a Christmas tree also all help to add essential cash to the funds.

Last year we were delighted to receive a donation of £2000 from North Berwick Golf Club's Community Fund. Large donations like this really give us a boost, so if you know of any community funding which you think we could benefit from, and which you think you could help us with, we'd be delighted to hear from you! Ideally, we would welcome having a PTA member committed to applying for such available funding. If you think that's something you could do, please get in touch.

What's Next?

Our **Annual General Meeting** is on Tuesday 20 September 7- 9pm in the school library. If you can, please arrive earlier at 6.50pm, to enjoy some refreshments. Come along and find out more about the PTA - we'd love to see you there!

So far, for **2018/2019** we have earmarked around £2,500 for staff training for The Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are delighted to be able to support this to ensure that these important opportunities can continue to be provided at North Berwick High School for the benefit of your children. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is such a valuable and much loved opportunity which the school hopes to continue to offer. Without your help, support and donations, this simply wouldn't be possible. Thank you!

Each year, the PTA discusses with the school's management and senior pupils what requirements the school has which they'd like us to support. Between now and the next PTA meeting, decisions will be made about what exactly our next year of fundraising will support within the school. We will keep you updated as these decisions are made. We also welcome ideas and suggestions from the entire school community, so please get involved.

How Can You Help?

You don't need to join the PTA Committee (although we'd love to have you - come along to our AGM or e-mail us at ptanbhs@gmail.com anytime!) There are many other ways you can give us your support, click here on [How can I help?](#) for more information. You can also show your support by following us on social media, and by liking and sharing our posts to help spread the word about what we are doing. From time-to-time we need to ask for help with events – mostly it's easy tasks like making tea, manning a table or doing some home baking. EVERY little bit of help given is so appreciated and essential to our fundraising efforts. For all updates, please **FOLLOW US** on www.facebook.com/NBHSPTA and www.twitter.com/@NbhsPta !