



*The*  
**ASSOCIATION**

BEDFORD GIRLS' SCHOOL PTA

### **Can you help the BGS Association?**

A wise BGS parent said to me recently; *"If I know how much commitment is expected and if it will fit around my life, I'll be more inclined to take the leap and join the Association."*

I understand her point, we are all busy and the thought of taking on more responsibilities that will rob us of any precious spare time is not so appealing. So, I am following her suggestion and offering some clear information about the Association and how, exactly, people can be involved.

#### **What do we do?**

Our main aim is to provide links between BGS staff and parents; always ensuring that we are supporting the girls to get the most from their time at the school. We do this by fundraising and donating funds back into the school, providing equipment and experiences to enhance the girls' learning. We run events and (hopefully) provide fun and entertainment across the whole school community. Some of the many ways that we have supported the school recently are:

- New cricket nets to the PE Dept
- Circuit Machines to the DT Dept
- Inspirational decals to adorn the walls of the Modern Languages Dept
- Microscopes to the Science Dept
- Dugouts to keep players dry during wet weather outdoor matches to the PE Dept

The events we run range from our ever-popular Christmas Fayre, which we like to try and build on in size and sparkle every year, to our inaugural Ramadan iftar held in 2022. In the same year, we hosted a family quiz and most recently New Friends Friday in the Junior School. Some of our events are held in conjunction with Bedford School.

We hold second hand uniform sales four times a year. These events are always well attended and take a great deal of hard work to put together.

We also raise funds through the sale of items such as Junior School swimming bags. None of these things would be possible without the help of volunteers, both staff and parents.

#### **How often does the Association meet?**

The Association meets once every half term at school. Volunteers have the option to attend meetings in person, or virtually. Please see below for our meeting dates in 2023/24.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 7pm.**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7pm.**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024, 7pm.**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 7pm.**

Events and uniform sales are held throughout the year and require varying levels of input, time and energy.

In between the scheduled meetings we tend to coordinate events remotely or some into school for a quick meeting as and when needed.

### **How is the Committee Structured?**

We have a **chairperson** (currently me, a Yr. 5 parent), a **secretary** (also a Yr. 5 parent) a **Treasurer** (our outgoing parent is a Yr. 13 mum) and a **Vice Chair** (post currently vacant). This year we would also like to add the role of **Marketing & Social Media coordinator** and **Volunteer Coordinator** to our team.

There is no limit to the number of people we can have on the committee. Not every member has a specific title or role. There is no fixed time period that you must commit to.

They can take an active role or even lead on a particular event that may interest them, or they may come to meetings with great ideas and suggestions which other people can action if they are not able to. The larger and more diverse our parent / teacher community, the more impact we can make on the school; we love innovative ideas and extending the range of events and activities that we can offer.

### **Does it tend to be parents of younger children who join the Association?**

Parents of students in the Junior School are still at the beginning of their family's journey through BGS and whilst their daughters are young, they tend to be at the school more often, dropping off / picking up and they are more directly involved in the day-to-day minutiae of their daughter's education. Therefore, they tend to make up a larger proportion of the committee. However, we do have several parents with daughters in the Senior School. They tend to find it is a great way to stay connected and keep up to date with what is happening, especially if their daughter doesn't give much away!!

### **Q: How much commitment is expected of me?**

If you take on a specific role, there will be an expectation for you to attend as many meetings as you can and perform your role to the best of your ability, around other commitments.

Roles can be split between more than one person to lighten the load.

If you volunteer for a particular event, you can let us know if you would like to be involved in the planning and development stage (we aim to allocate a sub-committee per event to spread the load) or if you can only help on the day of the event.

We are always extremely grateful for anyone who can help by **arriving early at an event to help set up and being there at the end to tidy up**. You can support at every event or just one. You can offer us half an hour or an entire day. There really are no rules, except that it must fit in with your life and not become a burden.

### **What if I can't do any weekends or evenings?**

Your help could still be used in other ways. The more people we have helping behind the scenes with such things as administration or ticket sales, both of which can be done from home and at times to suit the individual, the easier it makes all the other jobs and the more smoothly an event can run!

### **Is The Association 'Cliques'?**

Absolutely not!! We are a friendly group who will make you feel welcome. We are all here because we want to support the whole BGS community.

### **Who do I get in touch with?**

You can email [theassociation@bedfordgirlsschool.co.uk](mailto:theassociation@bedfordgirlsschool.co.uk) or come along to one of our meetings. Our next meeting is the **AGM** on **Tuesday 3rd October** at **7pm**. The AGM is where we will vote for the new committee and share a drink and a chat about the forthcoming year. So, if betting involved has ever crossed your mind, why not give it a try?

I really look forward to seeing you soon. Any questions please just email us!

Lizzie Thomas  
Chair