

Trustees' Annual Report to the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland

The Parent Teacher Association of Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Belfast (OLSPCK PTA)

CCNI no: NIC100441

Trustees for the Financial Period ending 31 August 2023:

Bernadette Sweeney, Chair

Helen Robinson, Secretary

David Coyles , Treasurer

Introduction

This Report is the Annual Report of OLSPCK PTA to the CCNI for the financial year ending 31 August 2023. It represents the ninth annual report of the PTA since registering with the CCNI in 2014-15. The PTA has been in existence since 2010, with the last AGM being held in person at the College on Tuesday 11th of June 2024. Regular meetings are held in person on the second Tuesday of every month with minutes taken of all meetings.

Year's Events with PTA involvement (chronologically)

Year 8 Mass

The Year 8 Mass usually takes place every September in the college and welcomes new pupils and their parents/guardians to the college, with the PTA members providing the refreshments after the Mass in the college canteen. The Chair is given the opportunity to address the pupils and their families after the mass and to introduce the PTA and its work to them. This proves to be very

productive as during the address, the Chair encourages parents/ guardians to get involved with the PTA, either by becoming an active member or offering their services while running PTA fundraising events.

This took place on Thursday 29th September 2022. Goodie bags were provided by the PTA to around 180 year eight pupils after the event. The PTA incurred expenses of £468.00 in connection with this activity.

OLSPCK DOES STRICTLY 2022

After two Covid postponements, the great patience of the organising subcommittee bore fruit on Saturday 22nd November at La Mon Hotel and Country Club, which seen a sellout crowd of 500 people attending.

After 9 weeks of intensive training, 11 couples, including teachers, college staff, and parents, took to the stage and performed a dance each, in a “one night only” extravaganza.

IN TOTAL WE RAISED £50,846.

How we raised this was through:

1. Ticket sales to the value of £9500.00.
2. The subcommittee worked very hard encouraging and selling program sponsorship to the local business community.
We raised program advertising to the value of £19,650.00.
3. Each couple gained sponsorship with each £1 pledged was a single vote for the chosen couple.
This was raised through Just Giving pages leading up to the event and payments taken on the evening of the event.
We raised couple sponsorship to the value of £21,695.00.

It was a huge success, not only for fundraising aspect of it, but for the feel good factor and comradery amongst the College community and beyond, especially after us all recovering from the covid pandemic.

Out of the total net funds raised in this pardon, £42000 were transferred to an investment account to contribute towards a donation fund for the future purchase of a new school minibus that will be of significant benefit to school for many years to come.

PTA stand at the College Open Day

At the College Open Day each January, the PTA usually takes a stand with committee members present to introduce themselves to prospective new pupils and parents. The PTA Information Booklet is handed out and a Uniform Upcycling Stand is also on display. This took place on Saturday 21st January 2023.

Uniform Upcycling

The uniform upcycling as an initiative continues. It has four aims:

- To ease the financial burden on parents.
- To help the environment.
- To demonstrate social responsibility and
- To raise funds for the PTA.

This has proved quite popular amongst parents and pupils.

We advertise this facility on our socials as well as in our information booklet.

Sales for the year ended August 2023 were £535. A Senior Teacher at the College and a staff member oversee the stocks and sales within the College.

PTA Information Booklet

The PTA information booklet was updated in May 2023 with recent events to ensure that all details were current and relevant to the ongoing work of the PTA. The updated booklet became available for distribution to new parents directly from the school in May 2023.

Ladies Lunch-Four Winds 3rd June 2023

The Four Winds in Belfast was very comfortable setting for what seems to be becoming our popular yearly event “Ladies Lunch”.

It was a sellout event with around 110 ladies attending. It is a fabulous opportunity for ladies including teachers, parents, and friends of the college, to come together to enjoy a two-course meal. This then was followed by a Fashion Show with clothes provided by Lulabelle fashions, we also had our usual raffle, prizes donated by local businesses, and the Head and Tails game.

The sun shone brightly and once again this was a great social success, we raised £2284.00.

Achievements:

Funds raised/Funding applications process.

During the financial year ended August 2023, the PTA raised net funds of **£32,928:**

Total Income: £56,789

1. OLSPCK DOES STRICTLY: £50,846
2. Ladies Lunch – June 2023: £4,778
3. Golf Day sponsorship: £250
4. Donation: £200
5. Uniform upcycling: £535
6. Investment account interest: £180

Total Expenditure: £23,861

1. OLSPCK DOES STRICTLY: £8534
2. Ladies Lunch – June 2023: £2494
3. Golf Day deposit: £80
4. 2025 40th anniversary dinner deposit: £1250
5. Year 8 Mass: £468
6. Bank fees: £94
7. Insurance: £140
8. Distribution to beneficiaries (OLSPCK Bids): £10,802

Bids

A few years ago, it was agreed that a new Bidding Process from Departments and teachers would be undertaken bi-annually in October and March. Applications are filtered through the principal before presentation to the full PTA Committee to ensure they meet our set criteria such as utilisation of the good or service across as many year groups as possible, longevity of the item and a reasonable cost vis a vis PTA funds.

During this financial year, because our main aim was to raise as much funding to go towards the new college mini coach, we only had the bidding process

once. This was in October 2022. The range of bids were extensive, and always a key element of our agreed outlay relates to mental health and wellbeing of all year groups, with us supporting Study workshops for Year 12 & 14.

We also have a "Hardship Reserve" initiative, being an ongoing annual funding by the PTA. We always try to support the workshop, "laugh in the Face of Exams" each year, which helps pupils and parents cope with exam pressure. Other bids we supported were, The Irish News Critical Literacy Project, English Dept, outdoor speakers for the PE Dept, Weather recording Equipment Geography Dept, Cookery School classes HE Dept, visualisers, Whiteboards and pens, Chalice, and Masks/ baking and craft supplies. These are used by our pupils while visiting various homes at Christmas time.

The total amount approved for bids this financial year was £4304.00, of which £1972.00 was claimed during the reporting period. We also released funds during this financial period for bids that were approved during the previous report period, amounting to £8830.

As nearly all of our funds come from school parents, we communicate our expenditure, not only at the AGM, but also through the e-Bulletins that are issued throughout the year.

Trustees' statement regarding the public benefit requirement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees continue to consider the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries. We have done so by always having regard to our constitution-the PTAUK model constitution under which we are established and, as demonstrated by the projects funded above, we are making a difference to our charity's beneficiaries, namely the students of Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock.

Bernadette Sweeney,

**Chairperson, on behalf of the Trustees of Our Lady and St Patrick's College
Knock, Parent Teacher Association.**

May 2024