

For discussion on 9 November 2010

HSPA PROPOSAL ON CHARITABLE GIVING

In the last academic year, a proposal was put out for consultation to the parent body via email and on the Highgate School website, for consideration to be given to fundraising opportunities at HSPA events.

This proposal was discussed at the HSPA Open Meeting on 7th September 2010 and, while there was no absolute consensus, it was broadly agreed that the parents would like any funds raised to be used in two main ways:

1. That funds could be raised to benefit the existing parents and children at the School, ie be used to subsidise or fund events or activities organised for them by the HSPA. (See Leavers' Ball as an example below).
2. That charities or good causes can be chosen to be supported by the HSPA at specific events but that these should have a relevance or link to the school, eg the Kenyan Orphan Project, which was set up by a past Highgate Headboy, or Meningitis UK in memory of a Highgate ex-pupil died from the disease at university. (See Choice of charity and Donations paragraphs below).

Leavers' Ball

The Leavers' Ball for Y13 pupils is a prime example of an event organised from HSPA funds for the benefit of parents and pupils when they leave the School. While the HSPA is not primarily a fundraising body, funds are raised through the Second Hand Uniform Sales and events, such as the HSPA Quiz Night. The School also contributes towards the cost of running this enjoyable occasion, which gives Y13 Leavers a wonderful send-off from Highgate. The HSPA is particularly concerned to keep the ticket price for the Ball at a reasonable cost, so that all students should find it affordable. The funds raised at HSPA events currently make this possible.

The HSPA does not propose to change this funding arrangement.

Choice of charity

It is proposed that each organising committee for HSPA events, can decide firstly whether there is an appropriate opportunity to raise additional funds, eg through raffles, etc. Secondly, if fundraising is appropriate, the organising committee for the event can select the charity that they want to raise funds for.

The HSPA formed links with charities based in the Highgate area through a project in October 2009 through the Cholmeley Foundation. If parents wish to raise funds to support locally-based charities, those that the HSPA already have a relationship with are listed on the HSPA webpages.

Donations

It has been further suggested that at appropriate events, parents might be invited to donate items or funds for related causes. Eg donating musical instruments at Highgate concerts, or asking parents for donations towards buying musical instruments for other schools in the community; or asking parents to donate towards supporting/sponsoring local talented athletes in the community at appropriate sporting events.

Proposal

Each event, and donation or fundraising opportunity, to be considered on a case by case basis at HSPA Open Meetings or organising committee meetings as appropriate. As suggested above, the organising committee for each event can choose the cause or charity that they wish to raise funds to support. If there is more than one charity proposed, a simple majority vote by the organisers of the event will decide which cause will be supported.

Comments and feedback

Any comments, suggestions or feedback to be made by email to Caroline Woollard hspachair@highgateschool.org.uk by 11th January 2011