

HIGHGATE SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Proposal for developing the HSPA's charitable role

The Pre-Prep and Junior School PA is very active in organising activities for parents and children that involve an element of fundraising. The Senior School PA (HSPA) has been less active in recent years in this respect.

It is not proposed that the HSPA immediately dedicate new events to charitable fundraising but rather that the HSPA use existing and any new events to begin to make a contribution towards selected charities.

Why fundraise or increase our charitable giving?

The HSPA fundraising efforts and schemes could be used positively to help all parents feel included in the work of the HSPA. Fundraising can help parents to feel involved with the life and work of the School.

Many parents may then feel that if they are contributing to HSPA funds some of those funds should be used altruistically.

Selection of charities / good causes

In respect of charities, the HSPA could select them in three main ways:

Either

1. Choose to support in turn (ie one or two per year) the local charities and good causes that the Sir Roger Cholmeley Foundation has developed links, namely (in no particular order):

Age Concern (Haringey)
Hackney Bulls Youth Rugby Club
Cancerlink
Shelter from the Storm
Home Start Haringey
Jackson's Lane
The Family Holiday Association
Finchley Rugby Club
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture
KEEN London
Harrington Scheme
Action Aid

Or:

2. Invite parents to submit proposed charities, which are then selected by the HSPA through a voting system. The Pre-Prep and Junior School PA use this type of system and usually one or two national

charities as well as a local Highgate-based one are selected to be supported each year.

Or:

3. Choose to support one or more local talented young sportsmen/women to help them achieve their goal of competing for the Olympics in 2020. Some sports are already well funded but others such are not. One example of this would be Fencing. The costs of travelling to competitions and kit, etc is huge and young fencers struggle to find sponsorship. We could either sponsor an individual or possibly a group of fencers through their club, eg Fighting Fit in Holloway Road has 4 international young fencers - 3 of them currently need help with finance so that they can travel to competitions abroad. Such a strategy could be applied to other sports too.

Action and timing

Once the PA has decided if it would like to develop its fundraising role, and proposed the method for selecting charities, it will be necessary to decide realistically what percentage of funds could be donated, eg 15% of the School Uniform Sale, or a percentage of a raffle at events like the Quiz Night, or perhaps donation envelopes or boxes on tables at such events, eg the Summer Ball, Parents Welcome Evenings, etc

It is suggested that fundraising events could be decided on a case by case basis as considered appropriate by the organising HSPA reps.

It was agreed at the HSPA AGM on Tuesday 22nd June 2010, that a decision on the proposal should be deferred until September when the new HSPA Committee would be able to take it forward. At this point also, the costs associated with the Y13 Leavers' Ball will have been accounted for.

Parents are invited to submit feedback or comments by email to caroline@woollard.eu by 7th September 2010.

23rd June 2010