

PTA NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

WHS CENTENARY BALL

Saturday 15th June

100 years ago in 1924, the Jazz Age was in full swing, flapper dresses were the height of fashion ... and a new school called Wanstead High welcomed its first



cohort of pupils. To celebrate this milestone birthday, the PTA has organised a Centenary Ball to raise money for improvements that should help see the school shining through the next century.

There will be drinks on arrival, dinner from the team at The Rear Window restaurant – the Hitchcock Hotel purveyors of “crazy good fun and crazy good food” – a live band and a DJ so you can relive your school-disco days. All current parents, staff, past pupils (over 18s only) and friends welcome.

We have a fabulous evening planned – and the more people who come along, the more successful it will be. Perhaps you could take advantage of our “10 for the price of nine” offer on table bookings by organising a class table with other parents, a reunion for old student friends or even suggesting your company book a table for their next party? We are also seeking more donations for what is lining up to be a superb auction and raffle. Book tickets through the QR code on the flyer on the back page or at pta-events.com/whspta/index.cfm

NEWS

Here's what we got up to last term ...

February's **Comedy Night** was a blast. Tim Shishodia, Kelly Ford and others provided the laughs, the PTA worked the bar and raffle, and we ended up making a profit of **£2,136**.



If you loved the school performances of **Grease** as much as we did, you'll be pleased to hear that you can buy cast photos from the PTA website – group shots will also be added soon.

The PTA bar is becoming a regular fixture at school events, such as this term's **Dance Shows**. Next time you see us, make sure to buy a drink and say hello!



Our **March Quiz Night**, hosted by WHS parent and compere Abi, raised **£3,650**. Thank you to everyone who helped, to **The Duke** for their generous donation of East London Brewing Company IPA and to the 120-plus of you who came along and made it all so much fun.

Matchfunding update

We are still looking for matchfunding volunteers to help us double (or even triple) our takings for recent events. If you think your employer might have a matchfunding scheme, drop us a line and we'll give you some tips.

**HAVE
YOUR SAY**

We are a small team and would love to hear your feedback, ideas and suggestions for fundraising at the school. Come to our next meetings on **22nd May and **3rd July** or email info@ptawansteadhigh.co.uk**

★ LOCAL STAR

SUE PATEL
WHS parent and
matchfunder extraordinaire



"I work for an insurance company in the City, and was aware of their contributions for employees doing events such as the London Marathon, but it was a chance

conversation with a colleague that made me realise the PTA would qualify.

At my company, each employee is entitled to £20k of matchfunding per calendar year – and for every £1 raised, they donate £2. I just have to supply a letter from the PTA detailing the event and the amount raised and they pay the money within days.

It really is a low-effort, high-reward system that many companies have in place due to CSR obligations. I'd encourage everyone to reach out to their company. Even if there is nothing in place yet, chances are it is already on their radar and your query may just prompt them to start a matchfunding system!"

DOWN WITH THE KIDS

In February, Louise, the PTA secretary, met up with the school's Junior Council of student representatives from each year group. She explained the role the PTA plays in supporting the school and they chatted about student fundraising opportunities.

Louise also got to pick the students' brains for their ideas for good uses of PTA funds. These ranged from getting new comfy chairs for the sixth-form common

room and more picnic tables and benches for outside areas, to getting in external speakers on interesting topics, more sports equipment and lunchtime enrichment activities and music events for students. Food for thought.

All in all, it was a great way to connect with the students, get their feedback and ideas and to encourage more fundraising. We can't wait to do it again!



FOCUS ON

EASYFUNDRAISING

What is it?

If you shop online, easyfundraising is, as the name suggests, an easy way to raise money for the school – and it doesn't cost you a penny.

How come?

Easyfundraising partners with thousands of brands – including Amazon, John Lewis, Ocado, M&S, Sainsbury's, Apple Store and eBay – so whenever you shop at one of these stores from the easyfundraising app or website, they send a commission, which is turned into a donation for your chosen cause.

Sounds brilliant.

How do I sign up?

Go to easyfundraising.org.uk. Tick "support a cause", then choose Wanstead High School Parent Teacher Association – London.

Anything else?

Make sure to add the site's Donation Reminder to your browser. This will remind you whenever your online purchase could earn a donation and redirect you to the easyfundraising site link.

How much have we raised so far?

Right now we have 81 supporters signed up to the cause, and have raised a total of £448.36. Imagine what we could do if all the parents at the school joined? If you regularly shop online, we'd so appreciate you signing up. It only takes a couple of minutes.



easyfundraising.org.uk

UPDATES FROM THE PRELOVED PALACE

Lucy and Kerry have really raised the bar this term with the introduction of our very own secondhand uniform pop-up shop – a pimped-up container in the car park of Wanstead Leisure Centre, christened the Preloved Palace. In fact, they've been so successful – 243 items sold so far, raising an amazing £2,272 for the school – that stock is now very much depleted. Please support this brilliant service by donating items of unwanted WHS branded uniform at the donation bins at the school and leisure centre receptions. Scan the QR code for more info and details of how to shop online. Upcoming opening dates: Saturday 11th May, Saturday 8th June and Saturday 21st July.



#BuildABetterWansteadHigh

Our ambition is to raise £500,000 to improve facilities at Wanstead High and help build the school our kids deserve. If we can find matchfunding volunteers, we could more than double the figures below. So if you're inspired by our Local Hero Sue, why not ask your workplace if they could help?

**£2,136 + £3,650 + £487 + £2,272
= £8,545 THIS TERM!**

ON THE AGENDA

**OUR VICE CHAIR, MARY RICHARDSON,
EXPLAINS WHAT THE PTA HAVE BEEN
DOING BEHIND THE SCENES**

ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The PTA's executive committee meets every fortnight. Recently at these meetings, as well as planning events such as the quiz night and forthcoming Centenary Ball, we've been developing strategy, policies and procedures for the PTA.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This may not sound like the most exciting business, but it's important to ensure the good governance of the organisation going forward. We've researched and written policies, such as a code of conduct, job descriptions for committee members and a diversity and equality statement. We have also been setting up behind-the-scenes tools to help us work efficiently and accountably, such as a Google drive, where the committee can store and share documents and spreadsheets.

NEW CONSTITUTION

Last year, we adopted a new and up-to-date constitution for the PTA, as the existing one hadn't been updated since the Wanstead High PTA was set up in the 1970s. The constitution is the document that sets out the charity's aims and objectives, as well as how it is structured and run.

We'll be circulating our proposed new policies for comment over the coming weeks. Then they will be discussed and voted on at our next meetings. The final agreed versions will appear on our new website pta-events.com/whspta.

*Thanks to talented local
photographer and WHS
dad Andrew Boyd for taking
photos of the PTA team and
donating a portrait session
to the Quiz Night raffle.
@andrewboydstudio*



THE PTA

We relaunched the Wanstead High School PTA (parent teacher association) in 2023. Our aim is to raise money to help build the school our kids deserve and run events that allow parents to meet and connect, creating a thriving community around the school. We are a small friendly team – do get in touch if you'd like to help out. Everyone's welcome!

THE PTA COMMITTEE

Chair Dennis Weeks

Vice chair

Mary Richardson

Secretary

Louise Russell

Treasurer Chris Carr

Head of comms

Carly Eley

Email info@ptawansteadhigh.co.uk

Follow us on

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Scan the
QR code to
go to
our new
PTA events
website



[pta-events.com/
whspta/index.cfm](http://pta-events.com/whspta/index.cfm)

Editor Natalie Reed

Designer Suzanne Taylor



We'd love to recruit a few more parent reps for years 9-13, as this really helps us get our message across to as many people as possible. The role just involves coming to meetings when you can, sharing PTA messages and encouraging others to support us. Fancy giving it a go? Email louise@ptawansteadhigh.co.uk

TICKETS SELLING FAST!

100 YEARS OF WANSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Centenary Ball

BROUGHT TO YOU BY WHS PTA

15
JUNE

DRINK ON ARRIVAL
3 COURSE DINNER FROM THE
REAR WINDOW RESTAURANT
LIVE BAND - THE NIGHTSHIFT
DISCO TILL LATE
AUCTION & DELUXE RAFFLE
SPECIAL GUESTS & MUCH MORE
EARLY BIRD PRICE £60

6.30
PM

VENUE: ETON MANOR RUGBY
CLUB, WANSTEAD E11 2JA

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