



**CHEPSTOW  
SCHOOL**  
INSPIRING LEARNING

PTA registered Charity number is 1202705



## **PTA Newsletter Jan 2024**

Happy New Year, here's hoping the new year brings you good health and fun times ahead. Settle down for an update from your **Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) Core Team**.

Remember that as a parent or staff member you are all members of this PTA. Our aim is to organise and support events for students and their families throughout the year and in turn raise funds for essential school items.

Thank you to staff and to parents and carers for your continued support in attending the events, donating raffle prizes, buying tickets and giving your time to help our school.

### **Here are some highlights from the last term:**

- ★ We ran our first **BINGO** night in September bringing in £500 for school funds. This was a fun evening for students and their families. Thanks to Hannah Ramsey, our caller. We enjoyed fun "house" and "line" themed spot prizes. We ran a bar and a raffle – Thank you to all who attended
- ★ We held a **DISCO** for our Year 7 & Year 8's in October which was a lot of fun and we can confirm this will be an annual event. We raised around £500.
- ★ In November we sold hot drinks at the Rotary **Fireworks Display** and made £350.
- ★ Our **Christmas market** evening was well attended by external stall holders as well as being a fantastic opportunity for our own students to showcase their entrepreneurial skills and talents. With a live jukebox, refreshments and gift stalls it was a great start to the festive season and brought in around £750.
- ★ The term ended with the **Christmas showcase** event where we sold refreshments during a wonderful evening of entertainment from students and staff and raised over £300.
- ★ Our ongoing collection of wearable and useable clothing and bedding for **Rags to Riches** continues and in November our collection raised £138. Your items can be brought in any bag to reception anytime and we have a termly collection the next one is Mon 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Pre-loved uniform** continues to be popular. Your donations can be left with reception any time. Collection of items you require can be arranged with Mrs

Kate Loram or the office with a suggested small donation of £2 per item or £5 for blazers.

### **What does the school do with these funds I hear you your ask.**

I'm delighted to share that we have recently been able to support the following areas of school life:

- ✓ **Music department** with spare parts for instruments to ensure all students in class get a chance to experience the instruments.
- ✓ We have funded additional chess boards for the **chess club** which is growing in popularity.
- ✓ We donated to the school "**Rewards fund**" and "Thank Goodies its Friday" fund.
- ✓ We also provided **benches** in the outdoor spaces and diamonds area to improve the social use of these spaces.

### **Proposals for 2024**

Going forward, we have our eyes set on a rather larger item over the coming weeks and months as the school need a second **minibus** so you can expect to see a launch campaign for this coming soon. This is obviously a large undertaking so if you have any contacts to be able to obtain grants please get in touch. Or if you have ambitious fundraising ideas, we would love to hear from you. Join us at a meeting or Email the chair Helen Steele; [helensteele@chepstowpta.net](mailto:helensteele@chepstowpta.net) or for other contact details see link on [school web site](#) here.

Listening to the **student voice** we are also aware that the **male and female toilets** all need some refurbishments. PTA can fund some of this, but we are doing a call out for any plumbers or trades people that could help us obtain new, affordable bathroom items such as urinals, toilets, soap dispensers or could decorate or install at a reduced rate. If this is something you could help with, please reach out to Mrs Lisa lane. [lisalane@chepstowschool.net](mailto:lisalane@chepstowschool.net)

### **How you can help**

It's not always easy to ask for donations these days, so we've started using **easyfundraising!** It means you can help us reach our target easily – simply shop with any of over 7,000 online brands including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S, and when you make a purchase, the brand will send us a free donation **at no extra cost you**. It's as simple as that!

1. Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) [Sign up here](#)
2. Sign up and search for Chepstow School PTA
3. Your favourite brands donate to us every time you shop with them and the retailer will donate a small percentage of their revenue to our school from every online purchase - with **no additional charges or admin for you**.

Be sure to load the "[Donation reminder](#)" button available on all devices. **Download the app** and start spending and saving all at once. You can even save money with discount and voucher codes. Great news all round.

Our final call out is for any parent/carers/friends who work for organisations that offer “**Matched funding**”. If you are not sure then do ask your employer, many offer it to support their employee’s charitable work and to enhance their own Corporate Social responsibility (CSR). If this is you, please reach out to us so we can maximise the funds we make and seek matching from organisations who will support us. We can provide publicity and thanks and support any administration on this. Thank you.

We are always looking for **raffle prizes**. If you have any unwanted gifts that would be appropriate to upcycle, please donate and bring into school reception any time. Thank you.



### **Dates for your diary:**

- PTA Refreshments stall at the School Production of “**Grease**” on 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- Next meeting: Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 6-8pm, school staff room. (inset day)
- **\*PTA EVENT\*** Quiz and chips night Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 6:30pm for all the family. Tickets £5 per head. Max team size of 6. Booking details to follow.
- Rags to Riches Collection Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Christmas Fayre Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 5-7pm

All of this can only happen with the time and energy of our volunteer parents and teachers to whom we are hugely grateful. We are always needing an extra pair of hands to make these events possible so join our volunteer list any time. Every hour is appreciated.

Thank you to all staff and parents who have helped make these events so successful.

**Follow us** for news on our activities, events and lottery winners:

[Facebook](#) (Chepstow School PTA – Public Group)

[Twitter](#) (Chepstow School PTA)

[School web site](#) (see Leadership section).

### **Contact us:**

[Helensteele@chepstowpta.net](mailto:Helensteele@chepstowpta.net) (Co Chair)

[Saritathomas@chepstowpta.net](mailto:Saritathomas@chepstowpta.net) (Co Chair)

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**Thank you for your continued support.**