



Chair's Report – Chepstow School PTA

Helen Steele, September 2026

When we launched the Chepstow School PTA back in 2021, I could never have imagined what an important part of my life it would become. What started as a small group of parents wanting to support the school has grown into a wonderful community of volunteers, staff and families working together to make a difference for our children. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Chair for the past five years, and as I prepare to hand over the role, I do so with immense pride in what we have achieved together and enormous gratitude to everyone who has been part of the journey.

As required, the PTA continues to operate within the Constitution approved by Parentkind and signed at our inauguration in June 2021. Copies are available on request from the Chair or Secretary. Any proposed amendments should be submitted in advance of the AGM. No amendments have been received this year.

Reflections on the Year

As we reach the end of our fifth year as a PTA, it feels like a good moment to reflect on what has been another enjoyable and rewarding year supporting our school community.

It has been lovely to welcome a few new faces to our meetings and events, which is great as it coincides with many of our long-standing committee members taking on new personal and professional commitments. Even so, our PTA has continued to do what it does best: bringing people together, having fun and raising valuable funds to support our students.

How the PTA Works

The PTA is run entirely by volunteers. Our committee includes parents of students from every year group. Alongside representatives from the Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff. We met 6 times during the academic year (although it somehow feels like many more than that!) to plan our events and ran 5 events with many other initiatives running in the background.

Our mission remains simple: to organise enjoyable events that strengthen our school community while raising funds for projects and resources that benefit students. The income we generate helps the school purchase items that enhance students' educational experience and support their learning and wellbeing.

I am delighted to say that we continue to fulfil that mission successfully.

Highlights of the Year

We kicked off the academic year with our ever-popular Bingo Night. Thanks to Hannah's fantastic hosting, creative calling and generous prize-giving, the evening was filled with laughter and plenty of friendly competition.

To spread our events more evenly across the year, we moved our Year 7 and Year 8 Disco to December and added a festive twist. The Christmas theme proved a hit, and a few extra games helped raise additional funds while adding to the fun.

In March, we hosted our third successful Quiz Night. Huge thanks go to Steve Curran and James Hodgkinson for once again testing our knowledge, teamwork and occasionally our patience!

February saw the PTA donning plenty of pink as we supported the school's production of *Legally Blonde*. We were delighted to provide a bar and refreshments for audience members while showcasing the incredible talent of our students. It was a fabulous production and a wonderful example of the creativity and confidence that thrives within our school. You all know I love to capture "lessons learnt" and the one thing I'd recommend for the next show is to have ice cream available.

In May, we held another successful "Rags to Riches" clothing collection, while also exploring a small-scale Vinted trial. Our next collection is scheduled for 10 November 2026. If anyone would be interested in helping coordinate this event, we'd love to hear from you. The Vinted project didn't really get off the ground, nevertheless, it shows to me that we have a team full of energetic people full of ideas on how to move this team forward. There is still time to work on this project if anyone is interested in owning it.

July, as always, was particularly busy.

We provided refreshments at the Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY) awards evening and were delighted to support such a fantastic celebration of student achievement.

Sports Day brought fine weather, one of the cooler ones between the heatwaves, and an incredibly busy PTA refreshment stall. We sold ice creams for the first time which went down well but for next year we need to be located closer to the students.

We shared a PTA newsletter to the families our new year 7's, to promote our activities so they could learn more about the opportunities and support we provide and maybe consider joining to bring a new generation of ideas, energy and support to the school.

Alongside our physical events, Kath has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of our pre-loved uniform scheme. Many hours have been spent sorting bagged donations, organising stock and displaying items at school events. The scheme continues to provide practical

support to families while promoting sustainability within our school community. Again we are looking for someone to project manage this offering.

How the PTA Has Benefited Pupils

The PTA generated an income of over £7000 this year, with all of it being reinvested directly into the school.

These funds have helped purchase a wide range of resources including a Drum kit, Food Tech utensils, Science equipment, English thesaurus and text books, Maths Curriculum books, the branding on our school minibus, a wellbeing guest speaker and craft items for the Art department. All of which have helped improved the students daily experience.

While this year's total is lower than last year's £8,000 profit, it remains a significant contribution and has enabled the school to purchase many valuable resources that might otherwise not have been possible.

Key Successes

Growing Online Community

Our Chepstow PTA Public Facebook Group continues to grow steadily:

- September 2023: 204 followers
- September 2024: 359 followers
- September 2025: 470 followers
- September 2026: 590x followers

This growing audience helps us share information, celebrate successes and engage with our wider school community.

But moving forward I'd be looking again for someone to take on managing social media. I strongly believe we need to extend into instagram and if that means starting again with two new accounts then maybe that's for the best. - Any one got an interest to move this forward?

Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising continues to grow, albeit slowly:

- 45 supporters in September 2023
- 75 supporters in September 2024
- 85 supporters in September 2025
- 96 supporters in September 2026

The elusive 100 supporters remains just out of reach! but you can't deny I tried. Every online purchase made through Easyfundraising helps generate free donations for the school, so please continue spreading the word.

Your School Lottery

We currently have 52 supporters taking part in Your School Lottery. While this is slightly down on last year, we remain grateful for everyone who contributes. Every £1 ticket helps support the school while giving participants the chance to win.

Looking Ahead Digitally

Facebook has been our primary communication platform and has served us well. However, as our school community evolves, there may be opportunities to develop our presence on platforms such as Instagram to engage with newer generations of parents and carers.

Looking Ahead

After five wonderful years as Chair, the time has come for me to step aside from the role.

It has genuinely been one of the most rewarding volunteer positions I have ever held. Supporting the school, working alongside such dedicated parents and staff, and seeing the direct impact of our efforts on students has been a privilege.

With my youngest child approaching the end of their journey at Chepstow School, it feels like the right time to hand over to fresh faces and new ideas. I will, of course, continue to support events while she is still here and look forward to seeing the PTA continue to thrive.

Thank You

There are many people who deserve recognition and thanks.

Firstly, thank you to Kath, our Secretary. She is an absolute Canva wizard, producing fantastic promotional materials while also keeping us organised with agendas, minutes and actions. She has also been instrumental in developing our pre-loved uniform scheme and securing additional storage space.

Thank you to James who leaves us today as he no longer has children in the school. As our treasurer his work with the numbers has been very insightful and he leaves behind a fab set of excel sheets that help us identify our strongest events and where and how money is being spent. Thanks James for supporting a thorough handover process. Your patience and perseverance have been greatly appreciated.

Thanks Lou, our new Treasurer, for taking on the role this year, Lou's SumUp skills and QR code wizardry have quickly become indispensable.

Thank you to Kelly Waithe, our Headteacher, whose support and enthusiasm for the PTA never wavers. We are incredibly fortunate to have a school leader who genuinely values the contribution of parents and volunteers.

Thank you also to the Senior Leadership Team for their regular attendance and support at meetings throughout the year. We are lucky to enjoy such strong engagement from senior staff.

To our wider support staff—Karen and Liz on Reception, Victoria Bradford, Amy Kite, Gareth Davies and the caretaker team—thank you for your endless help with uniforms, collections, correspondence, website updates, logistics and countless requests from me throughout the year.

Thank you to Luca Goddard for being a fantastic liaison between the PTA and school staff and helping ensure strong communication across the school community.

Thank you to Aramark for keeping our Quiz and Bingo nights supplied with much-loved chip butties.

Most importantly, thank you to every member of our committee and wider volunteer team. You give up precious family time, evenings and weekends to support our events and activities. Whether you're buying refreshments (on repeat), serving refreshments, sorting uniforms, setting up halls, selling raffle tickets, sharing ideas or simply turning up when help is needed, you make an enormous difference.

The PTA succeeds because of people like you.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supports us by attending events, buying refreshments, playing the lottery, using Easyfundraising, sharing our social media posts and encouraging others to get involved. Every contribution, however small it may seem, helps us support the students at Chepstow School.

As we move into the 2026/27 academic year, I hope the PTA continues to grow, welcome new volunteers and create new opportunities to support our wonderful school.

Serving as Chair for the past five years has been an absolute joy and a genuine privilege. I will leave the role with many happy memories, tremendous pride in what we've achieved together and enormous confidence in the future of this fantastic PTA community.

Helen Steele

Chair, Chepstow School PTA

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