



Westfield School

Headteacher: Ms Nicki Gilbert
Chair of Governors: Ms Ceri Hibbert

Head Teachers report for PTFA AGM 20.02.24

This has been another bumper year of fundraising for our school, for which we are enormously grateful. Some of the content in my report may have already been covered during the meeting, but I would like to comment on the contributions from members of the local business community; this year particularly staff from Dales, for their financial contributions and physical exertion in aid of Westfield, The Original Factory Shop, for continuing to support us via their loyalty card scheme and in-shop book swap, and M+M Direct, who donated multiple items of furniture, including class chairs, free standing screens, office chairs, staffroom chairs, notice boards, tables and cupboards, which they will not be taking with them when they move to their new office space in Hereford. We are hugely appreciative of these donations, and they have all made a significant improvement to our daily experiences.

The money raised by Dales, in addition to the fete proceeds, have gone towards the purchase of an additional school vehicle, soon to be delivered, which will enable small groups to go offsite without the need to use a minibus.

Bingo nights have been well supported by the local community, hosted as always by Leominster Sports and Social club, and have continued to enable the purchase of smaller pieces of equipment, and the funding of trips for pupils.

The EasyFundraising app continues to be another way in which all families, employees and contacts can donate a percentage of purchases made through a huge variety of retailers, directly to our school.

The cost of running and maintaining a school continues to increase, and is sadly not reflected by an increase in government funding, so we are more and more reliant on funds raised through other means to enable the positive experiences of our students to continue.

PTFA money has funded many items this year. The ongoing contribution to licenses for MultiMe, which many of you are now experiencing first hand, is a fabulous example of how far reaching the fundraising goes. Other in-class learning platforms that can be accessed from home, such as Active Learn or Mathletics, are hugely beneficial to support home/school transfer of skills, and require annual licensing fees, which do not come cheap, and we are grateful for the significant contribution to support the teaching of these extremely important areas. Many licenses increase based on pupil numbers, so as the school has grown, so has the cost.

I am aware that we are at risk of returning to a model of a very few parents and non-school employees in our membership, which could be a risk to the continued existence of the PTFA. Helping to run a charity is a voluntary act; and can be extremely hard work, which becomes harder, the fewer people it is shared between. We have recently posted please for additional members, and I would encourage you to invite other parents, who may not feel confident to attend alone, as well as friends and family, so that the PTFA retains its own identity as opposed to becoming subsumed within the school staffing model.



Westfield School

Headteacher: Ms Nicki Gilbert
Chair of Governors: Ms Ceri Hibbert

To those of you who turn out tirelessly and regularly, once again, we thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Nicki Gilbert