

BHSA'S AUTUMN TERM 2022 ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday September 14th, 8pm

Agenda

1. Welcome

This meeting is a short over view of the BHSA's activities in the last term and last year as a whole. Many new faces on the call, which is great to see.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting – approved.

3. Brief Introduction to the BHSA

- I'm Natalie, I have been helping the BHSA since just after our 2 girls, now in Y2 & Y6, arrived at BHS in the Spring Term 2021.
- Most of us at the BHSA team have full time jobs, there is no one helping out who works for the school which is important to point out as some families have assumed the BHSA is run by paid employees and it isn't, it's parents helping out as and when they can. That's the structure of a school charity.
- The BHSA is the school charity and it has two roles. The first is to foster community spirit for the families attending, which we do through a series of events and activities throughout the school year for families to attend.
- The second is to raise funds to be spent on the girls at school, which is why we charge for those events and activities.
- Part of our community work at the junior school is the BHSA Class Rep system, The Class Reps set the Whatsapp groups up, they organize the Contacts List for each form, the twice yearly gifting for the staff (which is not compulsory to join in on!) and the Class Reps send out the BHSA announcements on my behalf. They also update the Group Description section of your class Whatsapp group, usually weekly, with relevant dates, times, info about the week ahead. Please check that before asking the group for info that might already have been shared. Class Reps do not represent the school, or speak on its behalf; they help the BHSA in its efforts to "fun raise."
- In the senior school we have a lighter touch – it has long been felt there is no need for Class Reps in the senior school parent group. We are now launching a senior school-wide WhatsApp announcement group which will only communicate events news, tickets going on sale, with no opportunity for chitchat back and forth so it won't clog up people's inboxes but will get the info straight to the parents.
- The BHSA is working closely with Mrs. Argile and her PA to make sure we can use the senior school as a venue for our events more often. We will continue to use the junior school site too.
- You will find more info about the charity on our website
<https://www.bhsaonline.org.uk>

4. Review of the Activities during the Summer Term and the BHSA Endeavors in 2021/22.

- The main overview of the achievements in the past year would be that we, as a parent group, raised over £42,000, which is incredible! The uniform shop has grown hugely which grew out of necessity for my previous co-chairs who had to move it online due to Covid. Just over a year ago we built upon that by launching the BHSA's own e-commerce site. We brought back many popular

events and improved how we connect with new parents joining the school. Thank you to Ms. Emily Browne, the junior school Admissions Officer who helped the BHSA so much with these new connections.

- Last term:
 - ✓ Jubilee Party – really well attended, a very busy afternoon. Thanks to all the volunteers on the day and in the preparation of it all. The choir was particularly lovely. Lessons were learned about crowd control when we have so many excited children; we will have to find new ways of ensuring parents really do take responsibility for their children when at BHSA events.
 - ✓ Summer Festival & Camp Night – both parts of this event went very well. There was plenty of space for more campers if they had wished to book. The food was excellent – thank you to Accent Catering, the bar was extremely popular and the daytime festival-vibe was really enjoyed by so many families. It was a small team who ran this and we are indebted to them and the school facilities team who stepped up where we didn't have enough volunteers.
 - ✓ Fathers Day gift – as popular as the Mothering Sunday gift. The girls loved choosing the style of socks, so many happy faces with their gift bag for their Daddies/Much loved parents of their choice. The point of these activities is to encourage the girls to think about who they wish to show appreciation towards, rather than the quality of gift – that said, the plants and socks were very good quality, and value for money.
 - ✓ Parents' Summer Party – turned out to be a lot of fun. Eventually held at the senior school, the band was excellent and the casino tables were very popular. The Bar was so busy that the system crashed until the following morning – so thank you to everyone who has paid their bar bill – only one remains outstanding currently. Several After Parties went on until the small hours.
 - ✓ Uniform sales have been huge since our last meeting. The online store is incredibly popular, we get a lot of compliments about it being so easy to use, and how the school facilitates the orders going home with the girls so quickly is a great hit with many parents so we're sticking with this system. Thanks to the office staff in both schools for all their help in handing out the hundreds of bags of uniform to the girls. This is a valuable asset to the parent group. Collectively in the last year parents spent £13,800.00 in the BHSA second hand uniform shop, and as a group saved in excess of £41,000.00 based on the retail price of uniform at SchoolBlazer.com. There is also a huge positive environmental impact from the resale of second hand uniform – the school uniform is designed to last, and it really does.

5. Financial Update, by our Treasurer, Simon Chambers.

- I'm a parent of 2 girls at the senior school, and have been Treasurer for a few years .
- Full accounts should be on the website soon, and will be presented at the next BHSA meeting.
- The key fact is that the BHSA has had huge contributions and support from all the parents. We currently have £60,000.00 in the BHSA bank account, with only a few financial obligations and liabilities. Approx £30,000.00 is already

earmarked for previous successful bids from the school, including the £15000.00 for the junior school playground. This leaves £30000.00 available for the school to make bids on.

- Simon Chambers: would it be more helpful if the BHSA reaches out more to the Department Heads to ask them for bid ideas?
- Sarah Skevington: the school filters the bids before giving them to the BHSA to ensure the bids aren't already within the school's own budgeting remit and that the bids are for items that can be clearly seen to bring that extra wow factor to the girls' school experience as the BHSA's donations are very generous.
- Natalie Argile: We could use a form to send to the teachers to gather their bids and give the teachers a longer lead time
- Natalie Sensier Renaud: The BHSA can advise on what information might be helpful to have, to aid how the bids get presented to the parents on our website.
- SS: If the BHSA wishes to have another 'big,' project then the BHSA might want to retain a bit of the money or risk it disappearing on a series of much smaller things.

6. Class Rep and communications update

Thank you to all our new Class Reps who already have been sending out messages on my behalf to you all. Please remember they are BHSA Class Reps, so they're not there to sort out all the issues that come up, I've explained in more detail earlier what their role is, but on a day to day level they communicate the BHSA messages to their year groups. I send the message out to them, and they copy and paste it to you guys, thus the BHSA knows that everyone has the same message and that if there's a mistake it's not the Reps' fault. Please take any queries about the school to the school.

- SS: I second that. If the school has made a mistake or not communicated clearly we can put that right. All parents are very busy and don't need to be replicating or translating the school's messages to other parents. If we haven't been clear, we will make it clear.
- SS: I'd also like to make the point that there is a clear line of distinction between the school and the BHSA Whatsapp groups which are run by the BHSA, the school isn't part of them and doesn't promote them, the BHSA does that. We know they are very good and helpful and many people find them very useful.

7. Future Events & Volunteers Request

Please put these dates in your diary if you haven't already done so.

- ❖ Junior school drinks are now on Sept 21st, which is next week
- ❖ Senior school drinks are now October 4th – sorry it's much later, it's the first date the senior school can offer.

Both of these are ticketed events, the tickets are free but you will need one to attend. All parents are invited to their respective event.

<https://shop.bhsaonline.org.uk/events/>

Please do come along, these are not fund raising events, they're genuinely about meeting each other.

- ❖ DIWALI AT THE JUNIOR SCHOOL, Oct 13th, after school. The events team for this is up and running and they will in touch with you all via the Class Rep system, looking for helpers on the day soon. The BHSA will release the tickets for this with an announcement via the school next week.
- ❖ FIREWORKS, Nov 4th, in the evening. We're just building the Events Team for this, if you're keen to be on this team please let me know.

❖ CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

Wreath Decorating, Week beg Nov 28th, dates to be confirmed

Christmas tree collection: Dec 3rd (will be on sale online in the fortnight before.)

Christmas walk and carols at the school. Dec 11th

If you'd like to be on any of those organizing teams, please let me know. We also always need helpers on the day of events so please reach out too if that's something you can do

For events after Christmas the diary is currently open so if you have a yearning for a particular event to happen whether it's one we do regularly or a new idea please contact me.

VOLUNTEERS:

The BHSA only does events if there is enough support. If no one can or will help me plan these events, they won't happen.

- Jo Rosset, (BHSA Coffee Shop Team) We would like more volunteer helpers so we can call on each person in the team only once a term, which makes it much easier for everyone involved instead of them having to do it quite a few times each term.

Plus, we really need some people to step up and take the reins as my youngest moves from Y6 to the senior school next year and so someone else will need to take over. There isn't too much work, Friday mornings from 8-10:30, then a bit of organizing the rota. It's a wonderful way to get to know the school, the teachers and I've had such fun doing it over the years. Ideally we're looking for someone from the younger years so you can run it for a few years. Please do get in touch.

8. Any Other Business.

- SS: Thank you to you all for the immense amount of work you as parents have done in raising all this money, coming to the events and supporting in all the ways you do.
The uniform shop is such a professional outfit, and so many parents are very grateful for it

9. Close.