



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that everyone enjoyed the recent half term break as we look forward to a busy, exciting and successful half term ahead in the run up to Christmas.

At the end of the last half term, I shared that I had met with an amazing group of parents to begin planning the launch of the Warlingham School, Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) and since this meeting we have had a number of parents contact the school expressing their wish to also be part of this new venture. We are delighted to have received so much interest.

Our plans for launching the School's PTA will start with our first AGM (Annual General Meeting) on the **8<sup>th</sup> December 2022** with mince pies, mulled wine and a chance to mingle. At this time our focus will be to appoint 3 key committee members: The PTA Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. If you wish to be considered for any of these positions, please forward your self-nominations/register your interest by email to [N.Smith2@warlinghamtl.co.uk](mailto:N.Smith2@warlinghamtl.co.uk). For your information, I have attached a document which outlines what is entailed in the 3 and would like to make you aware that the roles and responsibilities of these can be shared (and evidence shows that the option for co-chairing is often extremely beneficial).

The PTA will of course need many sources of support - from volunteers giving time, organising events, providing valuable knowledge and also providing updates regarding PTA goals and successes. The aim will be to raise funds for the school. We are always very appreciative of the support that our parents provide to the education of their children at the School. We understand that with the cost of living rising, contributing financially may not always be possible for all families in our community. Nonetheless, you can support this project by attending meetings, volunteering and/or coordinating events and suggesting ideas.

One of the projects we are passionate about, is our reading scheme which started last week with our Year 7 students reading regularly with Year 12 and 13 students. The drop in engagement of young people with reading has been a hidden cost of the pandemic and one that we are committed to tackling to ensure it does not impact on the educational and wider outcomes of students at Warlingham School. We would like to build a fund to enable the school to purchase class sets of books for Tutor time, so that all students can benefit by developing their vocabulary, imagination and creativity. Evidence shows that reading regularly helps students develop empathy, improves concentration levels, supports their mental health and wellbeing and enables them to perform better academically. Developing and extending this reading scheme was one of the ideas we discussed during our initial meeting and this was identified as being a key project for raising funds via the PTA. The parents that joined us for the initial meeting before half term felt passionately about this important area of the student development and were keen to support this going forward.

If you are not able to support the PTA and School with time, a donation to the School Fund will also really help improve the school for your child and others. This plays a large part in helping us to create an environment which promotes and supports learning through your contributions. The School Fund is wholly funded by the contributions from parents and other donors and gives every penny it receives to the students of Warlingham School. The parental contributions are gift aided, so the Government automatically adds 25%. Therefore, for every £10,000 donated we receive £12,500 to spend. Your contribution to the Warlingham School Fund is invested in your child's future and helps us to make sure that Warlingham School is not simply a good school, but a great one, that provides opportunities and experiences that make an important and positive difference to the development of our students. You can use the link below to access your wisePAY account and contribute to the School Fund by accessing the donations box.

<https://www.wisepay.co.uk/store/generic/template.asp?ACT=nav&mID=4635>

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Tandridge Learning Trust

I am really looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible on the **8<sup>th</sup> December**, where our priority will be to appoint the 3 required roles, engage in some initial brainstorming and planning and give everyone the opportunity to get to know each other.

6pm – Mince pies & mulled wine

6.30pm – PTA Meeting – (Nominations and election)

7.30pm – Finish

While it has been a real pleasure to get to know the students of the School during my tenure so far as Headteacher, I am looking forward to engaging much more directly with parents and carers over the course of this year and the PTA is a fantastic starting point for this.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Foster', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr P Foster  
Headteacher