



GSPA AGM October 2024 - Chair Report

The GSPA is a registered Charity (No 1153571) which is an association of parents and guardians of Gordon's students that works in partnership with Gordon's School to support and benefit all students through targeted enrichment activities and events.

We do this by:

- (1) Developing meaningful relationships between the staff, parents, guardians and the wider Gordon's community.
- (2) Organising social activities and providing facilities and equipment which support the school and enhance the overall experience for Gordon's students.

This year we have had a full programme of events and activities including Quiz Night, Christmas Fair, Burns Night and the Summer Event which together generated a net profit of over £10,000. These events are not only about fundraising but also about building a school community.

We also have voluntary subscription donations that each school family pays to the GSPA on their school bill and which they can choose to opt out of if they wish. This is £17 per family per year and the income from this last year was £12,580.

Funds are then allocated in two ways:

- (1) Through a bids process – this year we granted around £8,500 towards various departmental bids and house requests.**

The bid process allows houses and departments to bid for funding from the GSPA and we as a committee review and discuss the merits of the bid with regards to the benefits it will bring to the students.

- (2) Grants to each House/CCF/DofE/P&D – a total of £8,400 a year in grants.**

Grants allow Houses and departments to choose how best to spend the money themselves on the small ticket items without having to submit a bid. The grants were increased this year from £500 to £600 as there had not been an increase for a long time.

We have had an amazing committee for the past year and I want to thank each and every one of them who sacrifice their time and energy for the school year in and year out. None of our achievements would be possible without their hard work, time, commitment and enthusiasm. It is important to point out that we are just a collection of parents who are willing to give up some of our busy schedule to help make a difference for the students.

Obviously, we as a committee are only one part of the GSPA and it would be impossible for us to do everything all the time. So, I'd like to thank the parent volunteers who provide much-needed support at events to ensure that they run smoothly.

And thanks to those parents who support us by attending the events and buying the raffle tickets and sending in the donations. We appreciate you all.

Event description & funds raised 2023/2024:

Quiz Night: - Income £2,475 & Profit £1,231

A great evening of fun with quiz questions prepared by quiz master and maths teacher, Mr Eaden. The GSPA ran the bar and an amazing Chicken Curry Supper was provided by Saf's kitchen.

West End Christmas Fair at Gordons School: - Income £6,638 & Profit £4,796

The event includes stalls, live entertainment, raffle, games and seasonal food and is only made possible by the tremendous work, time and effort the team put in to make this our largest fundraiser.

Gordon's Burns Night Supper: - Income £4,414 & Profit £804

This is a black tie event we hold in January to celebrate Burns Night – Gordon's style. It is a fun evening of eating, drinking and Scottish dancing with a live band and with accompanying support from the Gordon's Pipes & Drums piping in guests and the haggis. This event is part of the legacy and Scottish heritage of the school and so whilst it is not a big fundraiser it is an important part of the school calendar.

Whitehall Coaches: Income £1,760 & Profit £335

In the 1880's, to commemorate the death of General Gordon, Queen Victoria gave permission for Whitehall to be closed to traffic to allow the Gordon's Pipes & Drums and a marching contingent representing the school, to march to the General Gordon statue in Victoria Embankment. This tradition continues today and the GSPA provides coach travel to Whitehall for Parents and friends to watch this unique marching tradition.

Summer Dance/Party: Income £5,525 & Profit £2,780

For the last week of the summer term a marquee is erected on the school front field and used for various evenings such as the student's Prom. For one evening the GSPA take over the marquee for our own event which has taken different forms over the years (black tie casino night / hog roast Hawaiian night). This year we had a fabulous evening of live jazz, dinner, a DJ and casino tables.

Fun Day: - Cost £5,684

Fun Day is not a fund-raising event and is funded by the GSPA; it's a family day held each summer for the students of Gordon's to have a fun time and let their hair down. We provide a BBQ for the students and fill the front field with inflatables and games.

Sales of Merchandise: - Profit £3,038

In the past we have sold various Gordon's branded merchandise through the school website, at events and at parades. This year we sold a record 55 umbrellas at a rainy Annual Parade! As a committee we decided that this was our last year of selling merchandise and it has now been taken over by the school Development Office and will be available through them going forward.

Sales of 2HU: - Profit £4,612

We run a second hand uniform store which parents can donate uniform to and chose to have a proportion paid back to them when their items are sold or donate all profits to the GSPA (on high value items). Not only does 2HU create an income it also provides a much needed service for parents to be able to purchase uniform at a reduced rate.

Bags to School: - Profit £180

We have continued to collect unwanted clothes etc once a year which always raises money and helps parents to have a clear out.

Meet the Committee

Name	Role	Responsibilities	
Kathryn Iyer	Chair	Quiz Night	
Mark Mosby	Vice Chair	Christmas Fair	Outgoing
Stephanie Legge	Treasurer	Whitehall, Christmas Fair entertainment	
Ying Perrett	Secretary	Business Liaison	Outgoing
Angelina Bowden	Committee Member	Burns Night, Christmas Fair catering	
Caroline Donaldson-Sinclair	Committee Member	Merchandise	Outgoing
Juliette Buis	Committee Member	Christmas Raffle	
Pamela Mosby	Committee Member	Christmas Fair	Outgoing
Sharmini Balashankar	Committee Member	Bids / Try Booking / Email hosting	
Viji (Vijayalakshmi) Avudiappan	Committee Member	2HU	
Shivali Malkur	Committee Member	Summer Event	
Tricia Bell	Committee Member	Fun Day / Bags 2 School	
Sneha Shobin	Committee Member	Fun Day	
Melissa Flemming	Committee Member	Summer Event	
Simon Green	Committee Member	Burns Night	

The committee meets 9 times a year, generally on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 12pm. We receive updates and provide feedback to the SLT, make decisions on bids for funding, plan events / activities and review finances. Different committee members take the lead on different events and jobs. It is a genuinely rewarding and fun group to be a part of.

This is my second year as Chair of the committee and it is a year where we have had to think hard about the future of the GSPA as volunteer numbers have dwindled and committee tenures are coming to an end. This year we have four committee members stepping down and there are at least three more (myself included) who cannot continue after this academic year.

Looking forward

A consultation document on the future of the GSPA was sent out to every parent in the school at the beginning of July and again in September as well as being available on the School Website. That consultation period has now ended and the responses will be shared at the AGM.

Following the AGM a decision will be made by the committee as to whether we continue the GSPA as it is and hand over to new committee members over the coming year OR work towards dissolving the GSPA and hand the functions of the GSPA over to the school over the coming year.

We can only vote to continue the GSPA if there are enough volunteers. If there are parents wanting to join the committee we would ask for you to let us know.

Close

I would like to close by thanking you all for attending. The committee would also like to thank Mr. Moss & Ms Carruthers and all members of the SLT, Jemma Moreau and Tom Mundy and the Development team, Lorraine and her amazing catering team and finally Paul Curley the Facilities team who together make this an outstanding school to work with and to send our children to.