



Lawrence Sheriff School Parents' Association

Charity number 1101219

parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the Parent's Association I would like to offer you a very warm welcome and hope that you enjoy your time as part of the Lawrence Sheriff School community.

Like you I was a new year 7 parent four years ago and decided to go along to the first PA meeting in September. It has been a great way to make new friends, learn more about the school, and have fun while raising invaluable funds.

Most of you will be familiar with a PTA, as I'm sure your primary school has one. Not so many secondary schools have them anymore and even fewer schools have a Parents' Association (PA for short), which is made up solely of parents. We are very proud of the history of the Parent's Association as we hold the Guinness World's record for being the oldest PA in the country, formed in 1908. It runs on a continuous cycle, so as students reach their final year and leave, so do their parents. We constantly need new volunteers to ensure it can continue its important work raising extra funds for the school.

As the parent or carer of a pupil at the school you are automatically a member of the Parents' Association. We aim to provide the important link between school and home, offering support & information, as well as the fundraising activity which is at the heart of what we do. The Parent's Association is a member of **Parentkind** which provides excellent support for parents via their website www.parentkind.org. Our membership number is **31108**. We hope you find it useful.

Parents can support the school by getting involved with the Parent's Association and there are many ways that you can do this:

We raise most of our money at **school events** selling refreshments & running raffles. We currently have a wonderful but small group of casual **volunteers** who help out when they can. This group is so important because we would not be able to raise money at events without their support.

We hold **general meetings** throughout the school year, which are open to every parent to attend. These meetings are an opportunity for you to bring your ideas & skills to the group, to ensure we make our fundraising interesting & fun. We are always keen to increase our diversity and ensure we are representative of the whole school community.

Our first meeting of the year is planned for **Tuesday 23rd September** so please do come along, all are welcome. More information to follow at the beginning of the new term.

If you are interested in being more formally involved then please do consider joining our **Committee**. We are currently a small group of 4 and we are always looking for new recruits.

Meet the Committee:

"I'm Jane Fallon, Chair of the Parents' Association. I am a Sales Manager for an Aerospace company and mum to two children. Like you I was a new year 7 parent in 2021 and decided to go along to the first PA meeting in September out of curiosity. I had been part of the PTA at my kids' primary school and enjoyed getting involved. Fast forward 4 years and I've spent most of the time as Chair, a role I didn't ask for but the position needed to be filled so I stepped up. It has been really rewarding and I'm proud of what we have achieved. At times it hasn't been easy, as getting people interested & involved is difficult, but the school needs every penny that we raise so it makes it all worthwhile. I've met some really great people, both parents and staff, and we've had some fun and laughs along the way. If you are curious about what we do then consider coming to a meeting, drop us an email or come over & see us at an event. Everyone is welcome, all you need is enthusiasm & a good sense of humour!"

"Hi I'm Mani Raja, PA Treasurer from 2021 onwards, and I'm proud to be part of the oldest Parents' Association in the country, which even holds the Guinness World Record for its remarkable history. As an IT Programme Manager by profession, I bring my expertise to the PA, supporting and managing our activities. Being part of this vibrant community has been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I'm thrilled to contribute to the continued growth and success of the Association. Through various fundraising events, we raise money that directly supports the school's projects, resources, and initiatives, ultimately helping to enrich the educational experience for all students".

"I'm Pooja Pandey, Secretary of the PA Committee for the past 3 years. I'm a Finance Professional by day and a seasoned juggler of work, home, and school emails by night. I joined the PA when my son (now in year 9) started at Lawrence Sheriff, thinking I'd just dip my toe in.... And somehow ended up knee-deep in raffles, planning meetings, and surprisingly enjoyable conversations. It's been a genuinely rewarding experience - we've come up with creative ways to raise funds, had a few laughs along the way, and most importantly, contributed to making the school an even better place for our kids. If you are on the fence about joining, just know that no special skills are required. We always welcome new faces, fresh ideas, and a good sense of humour!"

"Hello I'm Gurpreet Parmar. I moved to Leicestershire 20 years ago after spending my childhood in Ireland and Wales. I've been a PA Committee member for the past 3 years. I initially joined out of curiosity, a wish to support the school, and nostalgia for my school days. It has been a rewarding journey; I've met other parents and witnessed firsthand how the PA contributes to enhancing student facilities. We've brainstormed ideas to increase funding and welcomed new members, hoping that as our children graduate, new parents will carry the torch forward. Plus, we enjoy a nice view and free samosas at every concert! Supporting the PA means supporting the students. The money we raise directly impacts our children through various school-led endeavours, such as the merit ties that are awarded to select students each year. Besides being a mum, I've worked for 23 years in the NHS. I love the outdoors, writing projects, and assisting the Leicester Council of Faiths, and I always have my nose in a good novel".

We understand that not everyone has time to spare to be actively involved. There are lots of other ways you can support the PA:

The PA has a **Donation form & Gift Aid form** if you would like to make a one off or regular donation.

We have a weekly **Lottery** that you can sign up to to be in with the chance to win cash prizes.

We are signed up to **EasyFundraising, GoHenry & Stikins**, where we get a % when you shop. These are all simple ways to support the PA from the comfort of your sofa. Full details of all of these ways to support the PA are available on our webpage.

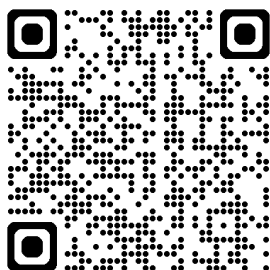
We are always in need of **Prizes for our raffles**. Maybe you are able to donate a prize or work for a company that could donate a prize or offer a discount on purchases,

Match funding is an excellent way to increase the money that we raise at events. If you work for a company that offers match funding please consider getting in touch with us.

All the money raised by the Parents' Association goes back into the school to pay for all the "extras" that the school budget doesn't stretch to and benefits all of our children and the school community. To get an idea of what we have funded and the money we have raised please visit the PA webpage in the community section on the school website.

If you think you might like to get involved, would like to know more about the Parents' Association or you would like to join our **Whats App group** you can contact us @ parents@lawrencesheriffschool.com or you can complete the **Contact form** on the webpage.

Below is a QR code link to the Parent's Association webpage on the school website.



We wish you and your son a happy, successful and rewarding time at Lawrence Sheriff School. The Parents' Association will be attending the new year 7 parents meeting on Thursday 3rd July and the Hartfield sports morning on Saturday 13th September. We look forward to hopefully meeting you there.

Additional PA dates for your diary:

PA General Meeting - Tuesday 23rd September - more info to follow

Clothing Collection - provisional date Friday 26th September - donate 2nd hand clothing

PA AGM - date in October TBC

PA Year 7 families "get to know each other" event - date in October TBC

Best regards

Jane Fallon Chair, LSS Parents' Association