

# Lawrence Sheriff School Parents' Association

Dear Parents / carers

On behalf of the oldest Parents' Association in the UK. we would like to offer you a very warm welcome from the extended family, here at Lawrence Sheriff.

Like you, Ian Davies and I were new year 7 parents two years ago, who decided to go along to the first PA meeting in September ,and it has been a great way to meet new friends, learn more about school and have fun, while we are raising valuable funds for the school.

The Parents Association has been supporting the school since 1908- making this year our 110th!

Over the past year, we have given funds for all manner of class resources and other enrichment items that have included; funds to enable more boys to attend an engineering competition run by Jaguar Land Rover; compasses for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards; Careers software; classroom visualisers, and a washing machine for the sports department to help keep kit costs down.

In line with the Charity Commission requirements, we have an elected committee and would be happy to welcome new members to ensure that the PA keeps its place in the Guinness Book of Records! Each year we lose some members as their sons move onto pastures new and we always need new recruits to keep the momentum going and the ideas flowing.

You have a lot to digest about the school over the next few weeks and you may have questions that you would prefer to ask a fellow parent rather than "pestering" staff, at the Induction Evening. I remember how I felt during that first contact, not wanting to ask about trivial things, but at the same time having some questions that didn't seem to be covered by the talks and documents. We look forward to meeting you personally either at the induction evening or our first PA meeting, where we can possibly answer some of your questions.

As a parent or carer of the school you are automatically a member of the Parents' Association. We aim to provide the important link between school

and home offering support and information to enrich both your son's school life and yours, as well as the fundraising activity which is at the heart of what we do. The PA is a member of Parentkind, (formerly the PTA org), which provides excellent support for parents via their website, [www.parentind.org](http://www.parentind.org). our membership number is 31108. We will be using our page to post details and documents and we encourage you to join. if you have already given us your email - we will add you to the LSSPA site so you can keep up to date with what we are up to and you can contact us easily. I hope you find it useful. We also aim to support Student Council, community groups, Governors and Alumni.

Parents can support the school by getting involved with the PA; this can be done by either attending the events, which are a mixture of social and fund raising activities. You can also come a long to meetings, which are open to everyone. If you would like to get more formally involved, then please do consider joining our committee.

We are not a PTA, so it just a meeting of parents. We appreciate that we all lead very busy lives these days and it is often difficult to come along to meetings, which are held usually in the second week of the month. General meetings are an opportunity for you to bring your creative ideas and skills to ensure we make events interesting and fun. We are particularly keen to increase our diversity and ensure we are representative of our whole school community.

Many parents offer to be on hand and 'do their bit' when it comes to helping at events such as the Christmas Fair, but don't come to meetings.

We take your privacy and confidentiality seriously and we only keep information that we need and only for the duration of your school life.

Once again, welcome to Lawrence Sheriff PA , we wish you and and your son a happy, successful and rewarding time with the school and us and look forward to meeting you!

Kind Regards

Tabitha Droy  
Ian Davies  
Joint LSS Parents' Association