

The Walters Front

Summer term 2014

The time has whizzed by since the last Walters PA newsletter and we're about to enter a particularly busy time for PA events and activities so we're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming weeks and months. Everyone is welcome – don't worry if you don't know anyone, the PA will try to introduce you to others with boys in the same year, and we're a friendly bunch, honest! Siblings, relatives and friends of Walters are equally welcome at our events. If you haven't seen the Walters Front newsletter before, then you can find back copies, as well as information on the PA on the Walters House PA webpage: <http://www.bromsgrove-school.co.uk/walters-pa/>

Looking ahead to 2014/15, we'll need some new volunteers for the committee, so please do get in touch if you'd like to find out more. We say goodbye in the summer term to Jo Goucher who has acted as Treasurer for the last two years and also to Vivien Moore who has also been a regular contributor to the PA. Their boys George and Alex will leave the Upper 6th in the summer. Whilst we have all of the key posts in the PA covered at the moment, we would love to hear from anyone who would be prepared to act as understudy to the Chair (Delia Stokes) and Treasurer (Deb Nolan). There's a 'many hands make light work' approach to the PA and hopefully those involved would testify to the fact that no one individual is 'lumbered' with all the jobs.

Lent term parents' curry night



On 16 March, we organised an informal parents' curry night at the Mint Lounge. The evening was well attended by thirty parents. We'll rerun the event in 2015 in the Lent term.

Commemoration 2014

As you will know, we've arranged a Walters' gazebo for Commemoration on 28 June, paid for by the PA. So far around 20 families have indicated that they'll be joining the Walter gazebo and if you haven't sorted arrangements out for the day, you and your family are very welcome to join us. Rather than over-engineer the day, we've decided that a 'bring and share' approach works best, so please email jo@stonehouse-marketing.co.uk if you would like to join Walters on 28 June and also give an indication of what you will bring. We're asking all families to bring a savoury and a sweet dish. If we find there are too many of one food item, then we can try to suggest alternatives. Do bring your own seats/deckchairs, drinks, crockery/cutlery/glasses etc. Even if you have made alternative arrangements, drop by to say hello.

School liaison

The school liaison committee meets each term, with each House invited to send along two representatives providing parents the opportunity of voicing opinions and concerns. There have been two liaison meetings since our last newsletter. We've summarised below the items discussed which impact on Walters:

- The Assistant Pastoral Head (APH) has indicated that the school will review the dispensation of chapel suits.
- Following several requests via the liaison committee, a rain shelter for the car park area is being planned.
- Several houses had raised concerns about the quality and quantity of food served by school. This is being investigated.
- There was a discussion about use of the gym for pupils under 16 and the Deputy Head Master (DHM) advised that this would not change because of health and safety legislation.
- Concerns were raised about the lack of car parking facilities at pick up time. These are ongoing and will be investigated. There is additional pressure on parking as sixth formers are unable to use facilities at Houseman Hall, but this situation will be resolved from September 2014.
- Issues around fund raising for sports tours were discussed and some parents expressed concern at the expense and time commitment of raising money, also the ad hoc nature of tour plans. The school is looking to produce a two-year forward plan for key tour dates to allow greater planning. Parents also asked the school to consider allowing pupils to wear sports tour kit at school for fixtures, allowing greater wear of expensive kit items. School will look into policy on bespoke kit for high profile sporting events (e.g. hoodies/ tee-shirts).
- Very positive feedback on the upkeep of the grounds.
- Anita Rose, a parent of School House, was elected as Chair of the liaison committee at the March meeting.
- Clarion call has been introduced for trips as a result of suggestions via the liaison committee
- Greater flexibility being introduced to the 4th and 5th form PE programme and this issue is being looked at by the sports strategic committee.
- Walters asked how the school could better use the OB and parent network to help pupils with work experience.
- Ex-Changing Room succession plans are now in place with Kay Wilson overseeing arrangements, supported by Karen Taylor and Kathryn Lord.
- Details of the PA funds' allocation were presented as: CCF (badges and model planes), biology (webcam for nest site), cricket (50% towards nets), rugby ('suits') and book sponsorship.

Next meeting – 13 November 2014, Old Chapel, 7.30 for 7.45pm. If you would like to attend on behalf of Walters or would like to put a question to the committee, please email pa-walters@hotmail.co.uk

200 club and PA funds

200 club winners this year so far are:

First prize winners	C Hales, Sarah Allely, Justin Parker, Trow family
Second prize winners	S Davis, Hayley Buckley, Helen Townsend, Neil Walker
Third prize winners	Hubscher family, Jo Goucher, P Hucker, Jill Morrice

There is one draw remaining which will be made at the summer BBQ on 25 June. Belonging to the 200 Club is very simple and helps hugely to raise funds for the PA to buy all those little extras for the house! To join, you can buy a minimum of one number for £5 for the 5 draws that take place each year. **The more numbers you buy, the more chances you have of winning!** This is an ideal way to support the house especially if you are unable to attend all/any of the PA fund raising events. Please complete a form and return it, with your payment, to the Walters PA mailbox in the house. If you need another form please email pa-walters@hotmail.com.

Surplus Walters funds this year have been used to buy sports tops for inter-house competitions, a PA system, newspapers, pupil awards, house ties, leavers gifts and also the Walters' gazebo for Commemoration.

Life after Walters

We caught up with **Ben Cox**, who was in Walters between 2005 and 2010, to find out what he's been up to since leaving Bromsgrove School:

What were the best things about Walters?

It was closest to the sports fields so I was always around the sports hall, fields and gym to do any extra practice whenever I wanted and it's who knows those extra hours have got me to where I am today. In terms of the house, Mr Wilkins was the best housemaster by far! I'm not writing this because I sent him this email but he grew to be a friend, rather than a teacher and always felt I could go to him and chat to him about anything! It was relaxed and people welcomed our year straight away! (*editor's note – no bribes were taken to include this*)

What did you do when you left Bromsgrove?

I was very lucky and was offered a four year professional cricket contract just five weeks into my U6th year, the week after making my professional debut for Worcestershire. I've not looked back since, I signed another one year extension last year and I'm now Worcestershire's 1st team wicketkeeper playing with and against International players every week and some of the very best in the world, loving every minute of it! I didn't go to uni so didn't have to worry too much about the stress of that, I chased my dream that I'd worked so hard for when growing up. And I don't want it to end anytime soon!!

What advice would you give to the Walters boys now?

Enjoy every day of school, as much as you may hate the lessons and work- you get to spend every day with your best friends so don't take it for granted. So enjoy it, work hard, chase your dream....it didn't turn out too badly for me!

What's coming up?

Here are some dates for your diary and it would be great to see some new faces. If you've never been to a Walters event before, why not bite the bullet? Our events are open to all year groups, the more the merrier!

- **Wednesday 25 June 2014** – Walters' five-a-side, summer barbecue and leaver presentations, 5pm onwards, further details will be sent shortly. All years very welcome, including families with boys joining Walters in September 2014. No need to buy a ticket, just turn up, food tickets can be purchased on the night.
- **Saturday 28 June 2014** – Commemoration, come and join the Walters gazebo
- **Friday 5 September 2014** – Walters new school year drop in drinks outside Walters, 5pm onwards.
- **Thursday 11 September 2014** – PA meeting and AGM at Walters, 5pm
- **Friday 10 October 2014** – Walters social event, details to be confirmed, but save the date, parents, boys, siblings and friends will all be welcome. Probably a 7pm start.
- **Thursday 13 November 2014** – School liaison – *please see above*
- **Monday 8 December 2014** – Walters Christmas drop in, 5pm onwards at Walters House

If you have any ideas and suggestions for content of the next newsletter, or comments on this edition, please email jo@stonehouse-marketing.co.uk