

Thank you for attending tonight's AGM.

As Chair of the Malmesbury School PTA, I am delighted to present my report for the past year.

Firstly, I would like to thank our committee members, volunteers, school staff and the wider parent community for their continued support throughout the last year. The PTA is entirely run by volunteers, and every event we organise, every item of second-hand uniform sold and every hour volunteered contributes to making a real difference for our students.

Reflecting on the past year, I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. I don't want to steal the thunder from our Treasurer, but I know that the last 12 months have seen our total income far exceed that of any of the previous five years. I very much hope this growth will continue and that, as the school grows, so too will our volunteer base, event attendance and fundraising income.

Through our fundraising activities and the ongoing generosity of our school community, we have been able to provide valuable financial support to the school. Our most significant contribution this year was a collaboration with Malmesbury League of Friends. Together, we contributed £8,000 towards the installation of fixed outdoor tables and chairs, providing a lasting benefit for students to enjoy every day (hopefully they will arrive soon). This is exactly the kind of project that the PTA exists to support; something that benefits large numbers of students every day but would be difficult for the school to fund from its core budget alone.

Alongside this major investment, we have also supported a number of smaller initiatives and requests from departments and clubs, helping to enhance the educational experience and school environment for all our children.

Of course, fundraising is only one part of what the PTA does. We also aim to strengthen the connection between parents and the school and to create opportunities for the community to come together. In a secondary school setting, this can sometimes be a challenge. As our children become more independent, parents naturally become less involved in the day-to-day life of the school than they were in primary education. However, the need for parental support remains just as important, and by supporting school events and fundraising activities, we continue to make a meaningful difference within our community.

What continues to amaze me is how much can be achieved by such a small group of people. The scale of our fundraising success this year is a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of everyone involved. We all have busy lives, jobs and family commitments, but by working together we have demonstrated that even a modest amount of time and effort can have a lasting impact on the school and its students.

I would also like to thank the Senior Leadership Team and school staff for their support throughout the year. Their willingness to work in partnership with us at events and submitting comprehensive bid requests ensures that funds are directed towards projects that will deliver the greatest benefit to students.

As we look ahead, our challenge remains the same: maintaining and growing our volunteer base. The reality is that many hands make light work. We are always keen to welcome new faces, fresh ideas and people who can offer as much or as little time as they are able. There are no special skills required, and not everyone needs to take on a formal role. Every contribution is valued.

I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Kay and Pete Sladden, whose contribution to the PTA over the years has been truly exceptional.

Throughout the entire time their children have attended Malmesbury School, Kay and Pete have been steadfast supporters of the PTA, generously giving their time and energy to help make our events and activities a success. They are the absolute masters of running a charity bar and have set the gold standard when it comes to going above and beyond expectations.

What makes their commitment even more remarkable is that, despite their youngest having now left the school, they have very kindly offered to continue helping at PTA events in the future. That level of dedication is rare and speaks volumes about their generosity and commitment to the school community. We are incredibly grateful for everything they have done and delighted that they will still be around to support us from time to time.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the PTA over the past year. Whether you attended an event, bought a raffle ticket, made a donation, volunteered your time or simply helped spread the word, you have contributed to the success of our organisation and, most importantly, to enhancing opportunities for students at Malmesbury School.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to building on this success in the coming year. Like most PTAs, we are powered by a small group of dedicated people and a remarkable quantity of optimism. We'd love a few more people to help keep supplies of both topped up.