

# Celebrating our Success

The Bulmershe Community  
Association

# Our Mission

- The BCA was set up in September 2005 with the aims of:
  - Enhancing the Educational Experience of Our Students
  - Promoting our community within the local area
  - Raising much needed funds

# Have we achieved these aims?

- Enhancing the educational experience could be interpreted to mean supporting the staff and students with what they are trying to achieve.
- In fact we have been most successful when working in conjunction with staff and students.

# School Performances

- Our first major challenge was providing the refreshments to all the performances of the school production of 'Grease' in 2005.
- We provided themed refreshments with a "Greased Lightning Punch" and a Pink Lady Cocktail
- In 2006 for 'The King and I' we expanded on this and arranged an Asian Buffet for invited dignitaries and guests.
- Last year for 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' we served up a Faeire Feast.
- All the money raised over these last 3 years has gone straight back to the Drama Department.

# Music Concerts and House Events

- Building on our experience with the school productions, we strengthened our relationship with the Music Department by serving refreshments at concerts and house events.
- Climaxing last year with the summer concert and barbecue – for those who volunteered a hair-raising experience, serving over 100 people in 15 minutes and managing not to set fire to the school!

# Parents' Evenings

- Since we started we have managed to serve tea, coffee and biscuits at all Parents' Evenings. This has been a challenge with the start time of 4.30pm.
- From comments received I think this has been a well received initiative.
- Along the same lines, we have been at the last two Open Evenings, doing our bit to encourage families to choose The Bulmershe School, by plying them with homemade cakes!

# Supporting Students

- We have worked with the A Level Business Students when they put on a Talent Show as part of their studies.

# Supporting Families

- Most of us speaking from experience know how frustrating and expensive lost property can be.
- We have tried to facilitate the return of such items by sorting out the cupboard on a number of occasions and holding second hand sales of items we couldn't return.
- We put out a call for volunteers to assist and enable us to open the cupboard when parents were around at Parents' Evenings – sadly this didn't work.
- But, we didn't give up, with the shop re-locating we took the opportunity of thinking again about lost property. We now have a wheeled container which is made available to students whenever the shop is open.

# Promoting the School in the Local Community

- This area is probably our greatest work in progress. We have tried a number of initiatives which sadly didn't take off. Perhaps I would suggest because we were working in isolation:
  - The Community Fun Run;
  - Earley Environmental Project.

# Community Successes

- But we have had some great achievements
- Our Web Site is one of the things we should be most proud of, not only does it keep families and staff up to date with what is going on, but it also provides a window in for the local community. We have had a number of contacts from local people via this.
- Only 2 weeks ago we hosted our first Community Social Responsibility Project, where a local firm came in painted 2 corridors for us. One of the volunteers was an ex-pupil of the School.
- Pagoda Sales – these are fundamentally a fund raising activity, but they do provide us with an opportunity of engaging with the local community, which we have found to be useful.

# Fund Raising

- A topic which all School Associations address is fund raising, and it is an area where we have had some success.

# Quizzes

- We have organised 2 Quiz Nights:
- The first was in conjunction with the School Carol Concert and was a really exciting evening with a full hall.
- The second night we organised on our own – but was a truly enjoyable evening attended by parents, teachers and staff (even though the wrong team won!).

# Easter Egg Bingo

- The idea for this event was stolen from local primary schools and we have to thank Earley St Peters for lending us their bingo machine.
- It is aimed at families and younger students, though we don't mind if Sixth Formers turn up!
- We spend the afternoon with our eyes down trying to win Easter Eggs.

# Bulbman Campaign

- For the last 2 Septembers we have sent out bulb catalogues to families and asked them to place orders for their Spring Bulbs
- We then receive a commission on these purchases.
- Last year we raised over £100.

# Web Shopping

Back to our greatest asset – our website:

- One of the functions available through here is our web shopping. This has been a steadily increasing income stream for us, which was enhanced by the school using their Amazon Card on the site.
- We use the funds raised through this to pay for maintaining our web site.

# Plans for the Future

- Since the outset we have always stressed that there is no expectation in what we do. Just because we did something last year doesn't mean we have to do it again.
- The direction of The BCA should be determined by the Committee at the time. They must be comfortable with what they are arranging, e.g. we know that Car Boot Sales would be immensely popular with the local community but the present Committee are not happy organising that scale of event. Which is absolutely fine.

# So What are We Planning?

- In general terms we would like to strengthen our presence within the School – we have talked at a staff meeting and hopefully made more people aware of our existence. Sue Squires is also part of a multi-disciplinary working party, made up of teachers, staff, senior managers and governors, which is looking into improving the perception of the school.
- To develop our parental volunteer base – the more people we have the less work there is for individuals, but also we widen our contacts base and facilitate better communication.
- Involve more teachers – we have a few very committed members of staff on our committee (without whom we would have ground to a halt in month one) and some who offer their services as volunteers. But we haven't managed to entice any teaching staff in, we have worked with teachers very successfully on a one off project basis. But this is definitely an area to develop.

# Specifically

- Promoting the reputation of the School in the Local Community;
- Offering our services to local primary schools this summer for their fetes;
- Organising more CSR projects.

# Specifically – 2

- Enhancing the educational experience of our students;
- We are hoping that the funds raised from this year's Bulbman campaign will go towards creating a garden for the Learning Support Centre.

# Specifically – 3

- Fund Raising.
- Treasure Hunt – this term's social activity may well be a treasure hunt and barbecue. This will be a family event.
- We have opened a charity account with E-bay and hope to raise funds for the School by selling people's unwanted items. We are starting with some School canoes. One of the challenges we will need to overcome with this is the storage of items.

# And Finally

- Thank you to all who have been involved with us over the last 3 years.
- Here's to the next 3!