

October 2011

Dear Parents

This year sees another change in the composition of the Kings Hospital Parents Association. I would like to welcome six new members to the committee, and also to take this opportunity to thank all those outgoing members for their time and commitment to the Parents Association.

Following a meeting of the newly elected committee for this year the officers elected were Secretary – Judy Miller, Treasurer – Paul McSweeney and myself as Chairperson. Joy Smith and Donal O’Sullivan will continue to represent us on the Board of Management and Judy Miller and Alan Thomas will be our representatives on COMPASS. The names and addresses of all the committee members are enclosed. If there are any issues that you would like us to address please don’t hesitate to contact any member of the committee and we will do what we can to assist.

This year, for the first time there was a pre Debut reception held in the Wilson Wright Hall. The reception was attended by students, their partners and parents prior to the Debut Dinner held in Dublin. It was a wonderful opportunity to say farewell to the Class of 2011 and will become a regular event in the school calendar in the future.

The AGM held in September was a great success with an attendance in excess of 100 people who benefit from an insightful talk by Professor Mona O’Moore from TCD on *Understanding school bullying*.

The school awards ceremony to recognise the sporting talents of the pupils in the school took place on the 4th of October where students were recognised for their sporting endeavours, including those who have gone on to compete successfully in a number of disciplines, both at national and international level. I would ask parents to encourage their children to make full use of the many diverse sporting facilities and activities available in the school during their time here.

Mock interviews for the 6th year students were held on Tuesday 18th October and we will also be organising a Careers Evening for 5th year students in February. These evenings have proved to be very beneficial to students over the years. If you would like to assist at either of these evenings in the future, or as an exam reader, please contact the Parents Association at kingshospitalpa@gmail.com

At the end of the final term we host the Valedictory dinner for all 6th year students and their parents in the school. This is always a most enjoyable evening and gives us an opportunity to say thank you to the staff of the school for all their hard work in preparing the students to face their leaving certificate exams. It also affords an opportunity to showcase some of the many musical talents of the students.

As you are no doubt aware the various cutbacks in funding by the Government are having an impact on the school, parents, and more importantly the students. The Parents Association, through its involvement with COMPASS, continues to push the issue of funding cutbacks, and the unique position of protestant fee paying schools, with the Department of Education and Science. It is important that as parents we continue to use our collective voice and make our elected representatives aware of the issues. It is for this reason that COMPASS has asked parents of children in Protestant Secondary Schools across the country to contact their local representative to raise awareness of this issue.

On the reverse of this letter you will find the copy of a proposed letter which I encourage you to download from www.kingshospital.ie, personalise and send to your local TD urging him/her to take this matter up with Minister Ruairi Quinn TD in advance of the forthcoming budget in December.

Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to welcome all new parents and their children to the King’s Hospital family and wish you all a happy and successful academic year.

Yours faithfully

Martine du Toit
Chairperson.