



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL Past Staff Association Newsletter

Email: paststaff@ditchampark.com

2nd January 2020

Dear Friends,



Happy New Year everyone and I hope that you have all enjoyed a good Christmas wherever you were, and that 2020 will be a good year for you and those that you love.

The latter part of the year was a busy one for me as I have been doing a little bit of work back at the school and I was therefore unable to attend many events. However, I hope you have continued to enjoy receiving the Headmaster's weekly newsletter which is always full of news; the pupils' continued successes and national recognition in all areas of school life are really good to see and the popularity of

the school remains undiminished.

Carol Service: Paddy Holmes, Colin and Margaret Cooke and I represented the past staff at the Carol Service on Friday 13th December. St James' Church was packed full as usual, and we enjoyed some rousing singing as well as some beautiful choral pieces and bible readings. Very well done to all the musicians, choristers and readers and to Ed Williamson, Head of Music, and Liz Jones and Julie Leighton, for their hard work in preparing the pupils so well.



Coffee Morning: October saw our third coffee morning which, once again, took place at The Pavilion Tearoom at Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle. There was a good crowd of us, including two former Head Teachers, Paddy Holmes and Kathryn Morton and it was lovely to catch up with everyone and their news.



Members' News: I am pleased to welcome Jane Boxall to the Association. Jane was Head of Geography for many years, always achieving fantastic GCSE results with her pupils and inspiring in them an interest and love of the world we live in. Jane is taking some time away to enjoy her new found freedom, but we will look forward to seeing her at a future event.



Forthcoming Events:



Senior Concert: This is taking place on **Thursday 5th March** between 6.30pm and 8.30pm in the Martin Pryce Building at the school.

St Peter's Church, Lunchtime Concert (choirs and concert band): The latest of these popular concerts will take place on **Tuesday 3rd March at 1.00pm**. Admission is free and coffee is available; there will be a retiring collection.

Petersfield Music Festival – Youth Concerts: The school has participated in this Music Festival for many years now and this year the concerts are taking place on **Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th March at the Festival Hall** at 7.00pm. Tickets will be on available directly from the Festival Hall but do sell out quickly.

Easter Service: The Easter Service to mark the end of term will take place on **Friday 27th March** in the Martin Pryce Building, commencing at **3.15pm**.

Please make a note of these dates in your diary if you think you might be interested in attending, particularly those being held at the school where numbers are often limited. I did

receive feedback that some members could not attend the Carol Service last term as they did not know the date soon enough. May I politely point out, that the date was included in the Summer 2019 newsletter which was sent out in July. I do my best to send reminders as events are coming up as well.

If you do wish to attend any event taking place at the school, there is now a new contact in the school office, as Lisa Tosdevine left at Christmas. The new contact is Mrs Sue Hughes whose email is: sue.hughes@ditchampark.com. Thank you for your co-operation.



Brookfield Annual Lunch: In the well-established tradition of the Past Staff Association, I have booked the Annual lunch at the Brookfield Hotel near Emsworth for **Friday 24th April**. I am still talking to the hotel regarding the arrangements but hope to keep the cost in the region of £20-£25/per head. I will be in touch again once I have more details

Best wishes.

Alison Chapman

Past Staff Association Co-ordinator