



## OLOL PTA MEETING

**Thursday, 26th February 2026**

### **Present:**

Committee: Alex Athienitou (AA); PTA Chair, Raf Markowski (RM); PTA Treasurer, Roberto Grammatica (RG); PTA Shadow Chair, Ellie White (EW); PTA Co-Secretary, Dhiraj Shrestha (DS); PTA Shadow Treasurer.

Donna Tooth (Y4), Grainne Curran (Y2&Y6), Louise Ellis (Y4&Y6), Izzy Burgess (N), Gemma Tomkinson (R), Eli and Su Ceylon (Y3), Patience Rusinga (Y3&Y6), Sarah Gull (Y2&Y6).

### **Apologies:**

Dolores Condren (N&Y3), Hannah Foster (R), Evi Kartsouni (Y3), Danni Abrahams (R), Clara Turner (Y6), Linda Duan (Y1), Zara Nwabudike (Y4), Chimaechi Allen (N), Aoibheann Foley (Y5), Elizabeth Stokoe (R&Y3).

### **1. Chair's Welcome**

AA welcomes all to OLOL PTA Meeting and gives a brief outline of the agenda we would be covering.

### **2. Introductions**

Everyone goes around the table and introduces themselves with their name, role (if on PTA Committee) and the year groups that their children are in.

### **3. St Patrick's Disco**

AA tells the group that the rotas for the volunteers to help at the St Patrick's Disco need to go out asap (4 people per hour on the bar, 2 people per hour on the tuck shop, 2 people per hour on glowsticks (on the door with Mrs Boon and Miss Crampton) 2 people per hour on toilet duty – preferably one man and one woman).

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AA explains that everyone who signs up to volunteer must have already secured a ticket for the disco. She adds that set up is at 5pm.

EW asks if there was a google doc used last year to get people to sign up. AA agrees that there was and we would probably use a similar document this year for disco volunteers.

AA tells the assembled company about the difficulties that the Committee has had trying to secure a DJ for the disco. Jonathan Blakesley, who kindly DJ'd for many years, no longer has children in the school, another parent offered to do it then their child left the school and another DJ we had secured realised that she had a prior arrangement. Now, a DJ has been found but will need to be paid £250, which means less profit from the disco.

AA adds that a stock take needs to be done as a matter of urgency because the bar at the Christmas Fayre sold most of the alcohol that was in stock and we need to ensure that there is enough for the bar at the disco. DS says that he is happy to take the lead on doing the stock take and Patience Rusinga and Donna Tooth agree to help him on Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> after school pick up.

AA explains that Mark, a parent at the school (also a pub landlord) used to donate all the chocolate, crisps and fizzy drinks for the tuck shop – but for a variety of reasons, he will not be donating this year. However, PA Finlay (one of OLOL's event sponsors) has agreed to sponsor the tuck shop items for the disco.

RG says that Bharvi will do the balloon arch and he has purchased an arch, balloons and a pump so that she can do the arch on the day of the disco (Friday 13<sup>th</sup>). Sarah Gull points out that there is all the equipment for a balloon arch in the PTA cupboard if it's needed.

EW says that Kate Watson (Business Manager at OLOL) has offered to book the cleaner. AA and RG agree that this is a good idea and EW says she will reply to her and thank her for her offer and agree to go ahead.

AA – says she's happy to do the sweets for the tuck shop. There is some discussion about whether to do the pick n mix bags like last year or whether to stick to packets of haribo. The pick n mix bags were very popular last year and made good money at £1 a bag – so it was decided to do those again this year.

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Grainne Curran and Lou Ellis both agree that they would be happy to do the facepainting at the disco.

AA mentions about the Slushie machine and says she needs get back to Annabel (previous PTA Co Chair) and ask her son to bring his slushie machine again as he has done in previous years.

RG says that he is liaising with the DJ and that if anyone has any genres of music that they'd like to hear, to let him know. He adds that he is also purchasing two big mops to mop up the floor at the disco and clean up any spilt drinks etc.

AA adds that hotdogs were trialled last year and they were very popular and sold out quickly. It was decided to do hotdogs again this year but to have even more to ensure we can cater for the demand!

#### **4. Christmas Fayre Feedback**

AA says that the Christmas Fayre went well and was very successful both in terms of being a community event and raising funds for the school. She asks if anyone else has any further feedback but nobody has anything else to add apart from agreeing the Fayre was indeed a great event.

#### **5. Summer Fayre**

AA reiterates that the date for the Summer Fayre is June 13<sup>th</sup>. She explains that there was some discussion about the date that the Fayre should take place, but that a lesson learnt last year was that having it in July doesn't work (it was on July 4<sup>th</sup> last year). This is because people have too much going on, and are too fatigued by the time July comes around.

AA also says that Federico, who runs the famous OLOL BBQ cannot make the fayre this year. This is a big loss, but Federico has said he will be available to do the shopping beforehand, and perhaps even help with set up from 10am etc. RG and AA also point out that there are other people on the BBQ team who have been 'shadowing' Federico for the past few years and even some of the newer team members who can help keep the BBQ show on the road!

Gemma Tomkinson asks if the idea of having a BBQ is set in stone, or would food trucks be considered? AA points out that there are some parents in the school who own

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food businesses and have said in the past that they would be able to help out with some catering. For example, Carol Deeney who owns Deeney's in Leyton has said before that she would like to be involved and AA says she will reach out to her.

AA also tells everyone that the long-standing go karts ride is not available, which is also a great loss. RG says that he did ask the ride operator if there's anyone else he knows who could use the space, but unfortunately this was a dead end. RG reiterates that if anyone knows anyone who could fill in for those rides, then please let the Committee know.

Gemma Tomkinson says she will look into other go karting companies that could step in.

However, everyone agrees that certain rides not being available could be a good opportunity to change things up. RM has floated the idea of a hovercraft-type ride that has been tried out before in Wanstead Park and he says he will look into that.

EW updates everyone on the introduction of a jazz band at the Summer Fayre! Ian Sweet, who is Head of Music at Wanstead High and has two children at OLOL, has agreed to play two slots (one at the beginning and one at the end) of the fayre. There is much excitement from everyone at this news.

## **6. Summer Ball**

AA explains that not having the Summer Ball last year was a big blow, both financially and in terms of there being fewer school community events.

She adds that this year we are very lucky to have Hannah Foster come forward and take on the Ball with the help of Danni Abrahams.

As Hannah is not able to attend the meeting, AA takes everyone through what has been organised so far – namely a welcome drink sponsorship package, entertainment sponsorship package, sponsors for each table, auction prizes etc.

Each sponsorship package contains company branding, opportunities to speak at the Ball, marketing materials etc.

Hannah has asked each rep to find a sponsor for a table, or at least to help herself and Danni to find sponsors for the various categories.

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There ensues much discussion about the difficulties that are often experienced in finding local businesses to sponsor the Ball in any capacity, as well as persuade parents to tap up their contacts to find auction prizes.

EW points out that there may well be a struggle to 'divvy up' all the raffle, auction and sponsorship elements of the Ball and it can feel like they're all 'cannibalising' each other!

AA says that there might not be a raffle this summer and that should ease the problem of trying to get so many prizes together.

The discussion continues around what sort of prizes can be secured – everyone agrees that a good idea would be to ask parents to offer prizes from their 'day job'; electrician for a day, year's yoga studio membership etc.

## **7. Request For Shadows**

AA explains that the PTA Committee is currently extremely stretched (give members doing the work of 10) and she asks if anyone would like to step up to be a shadow of one of the Committee members.

She also points out that we're currently a person down, as Jess Day (Co-Secretary) has had to stand down for the time being for personal reasons. She is hoping to be able to return after Easter, but that is not a guarantee.

Grainne Curran and Lou Ellis say that they are happy to help out with extra jobs but they don't want to be on the Committee per se. They note that perhaps the Committee should put more 'shout outs' on the OLOL reps group and try to delegate more tasks to the reps. AA says that this is a good idea and that the Committee will start to do more delegating where possible.

AA says that one of the most pressing tasks is to do a stock take in time for the St.Pat's disco and DS, Donna Tooth and Patience Rusinga all offer to help with that. A date for the stock take is diarised – Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Lou Ellis says that as a graphic designer, she is happy to make posters/flyers etc for the PTA events. She also floats the idea of making the comms (whats app messages, newsletter notifications etc) more visual, so people can get a visual idea of what the

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money that the PTA raises is being spent on. Everyone agrees that this is a good idea and AA says that she and EW will work with Lou with a view to doing this in the future.

### **8. Close**

AA thanked everyone for attending the meeting. No other business was noted and the meeting was closed.