Colyton Grammar School PA

COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk
Chair Carolyn Blanshard
Registered Charity Number **273999**

HANDBOOK 2019

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WELCOME

TO THE COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Starting any new school can be a challenging time: meeting new people, finding your way around, remembering teachers' names, knowing what kit is required for which PE lesson – and that applies to parents just as much as to the children. New students at Colyton Grammar School are very well looked after, and they have one another for support; for parents and guardians it can sometimes not be quite so easy, especially now that we do not have the same "playground time" that we experienced at Primary School.

With this in mind, the Parents' Association (PA) have put together this welcome handbook in which you will find information on PA events during the year, second-hand uniform sales, the Book Club, meetings and a calendar of PA events.

All parents, guardians and staff at Colyton are automatically members of the PA. We exist to support the students and the school through fundraising and in doing so aim to foster good parent-school relations. All our contact details and information about events and activities can be found on our website but, as a start, I hope you find this handbook both helpful and informative. Please do not hesitate to email me or the PA secretary if we can be of any help with PA matters.

Our school has a very strong sense of community despite the geographical isolation of students and their families and we sincerely hope that you will enjoy being part of the Parents' Association.

Carolyn Blanshard
Chair
Colyton Grammar School Parents' Association

WHAT CAN THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION DO FOR YOU?

If you think back to how you met people at your child's primary school, it was probably in the playground or at the school gate. But that opportunity does not exist at secondary school. Very quickly your child will make new friends at school with parties and sleepovers being arranged and confirmed by text or email! But what about the parents? How do you get to know one another? This is where the PA can help.

YEAR 7 NEW PARENTS' TEA

In your New Parents Information Pack you will receive an invitation to an afternoon tea jointly hosted by the Headteacher and the PA. We started this in 2010 and it has proved very popular with new parents.

It takes place in the Cottrill Hall in the first week of the new school year. On arrival, you will be handed a badge in the house colour of your child's tutor group - blue for Ash, green for Beech, yellow for Cedar, purple for Elm and red for Oak - so that you can easily identify and meet fellow parents. There will also be members of the PA committee, a few sixth-formers and Form Tutors, if available. So it is a great opportunity to chat informally with other parents, the Headteacher and other teachers as well as finding out a bit more about the school.

Class list: Due to data protection laws, this is something the school cannot provide, so the PA volunteers to collect contact details from new Yr 7 parents which they then circulate within that tutor group. It is entirely up to you if you want to be involved, but most parents find it very useful. Your child will most likely make friends with others in the same tutor group and having their parents' contact details will be very useful in the first year or so.

Please register your details on the PA website at the following link:

www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk/year-7-parents-contact-list

Members of the PA committee will also be at the New Yr 7 Students & Parents Induction in June, manning the second-hand uniform stand as well as being available to answer questions or give information about any of our events and activities. We will be easily identifiable by name badges so please do not hesitate to ask if we can help in any way.

The second-hand uniform stand has a wide selection of all the uniform and sports kit needed for CGS. Prices are very reasonable and all money raised goes directly into PA funds.

www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk

PA MEETINGS

These take place once a term, normally in the Coly Building, Room 29. In addition, the AGM is held in October. The Headteacher usually attends and gives an informal report on current school matters, so it's a chance to find out all that is happening at CGS and in education as a whole.

It's also a great opportunity to meet parents from other year groups and take advantage of their knowledge and experience as your own child progresses through the school.

Check the school website diary for meeting dates. You will receive eComms via school announcing all meetings and events.

THE CGSPA
BOOK CLUB

The PA began the Book Club in 2011 and it has gone from strength to strength.

This is one club divided into local branches so that you can meet other Colyton parents from your area. Everyone reads the same book, chosen in turn by each branch, and we meet once or twice per term either at a local pub or at each others homes for a chat and most importantly to socialise! We are also planning to have a full Book Club event at school with a visiting author.

Branches are centred on areas around:
- **Axminster**
- **Bridport**
- **Colyford**
- **Exeter**
- **Exmouth/Budleigh**
- **Honiton/Ottery**
- **Sidmouth/ Newton Poppleford**
- **Somerset**
- **West Hill**

Please visit the book club page to see reviews of the books we have read and what book we are reading now.

www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk/book-club

Our CGSPA Book Club Facebook Page is:

www.facebook.com/CGSPABookClub

The Book Club is very popular and we always welcome new members.
Please register at the following URL and your local branch leader will contact you.

www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk/book-club-registration

(If you wish to start a new group in a different area, please contact the PA)

/CGSPABookClub

WHAT DOES THE PA DO FOR THE SCHOOL & STUDENTS?

Colyton Grammar School is an outstanding school where students are taught by dedicated teachers in well-equipped classrooms, language suites and laboratories. But in these straitened economic times, the PA helps to provide some of the extras that the school budget is unable to cover.

Our **Space4Science** appeal concluded in Summer 2017 having successfully raised **£100,000** for the total conversion and refurbishment of a new science lab.

In recent years the PA was very pleased to be able to contribute £22,000 to the furnishing and equipping of the new Music Centre including musical instruments. We have contributed to many other projects including the last refurbishment of the Library and the Art Centre, we have provided digital cameras for Art, Raspberry Pi computers and robotics equipment for IT, new sports vests and rugby shirts for PE and regular year 8 First Aid Courses. Recently we have contributed £20,000 towards the updating of the School's IT infrastructure and expanding the existing data storage.

In 2014 the PA paid the full £19,000 to secure a new minibus. We have paid for the very popular outdoor table tennis tables, equipment for Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, iPads for PE and contributed to the new 3D printer. All these contributions facilitated by PA fundraising and the generosity of parents make a very real difference to the school and students.

All proceeds from our events go towards raising money for the school for the benefit of our children's education. It is very rewarding to work together and new parents are particularly welcomed to help in any way they can.

You can also support the appeal by shopping through **Easyfundraising**. This is a simple way to raise money. Please try it yourself. (see page 14 for details)

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www.easyfundraising.org.uk

GARDEN & FOOD FESTIVAL

www.colytongardenfoodfestival.uk

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EVENTS

Along with raising money, we also organise events to help contribute to the richness of school life. You do not have to wait until your child starts CGS in September, please come along to our events this summer! This will really help your children get used to the school layout and give you the opportunity to meet other parents.

The Garden & Food Festival

This is an annual event held every May since 2003. The School is transformed for the day into an amazing gardening and food market. There are a variety of local food producers and craft stalls as well as the specialist nurseries. There are also the added attractions of a BBQ, cream teas, raffle, tombola, music entertainment by the students and a children's activity area. Second-hand uniform will also be on sale. Last year the Garden & Food Festival raised £6600.

Summer Fête

Every year the students hold a Summer Fête with stalls, entertainment and games predominantly run by the younger students. The PA supports the event by organising and running a café, cake stall, ice cream and soft drinks stand, book stall and a BBQ. There is also another opportunity to shop at our second-hand uniform stall. With some 70+ stalls this is not to be missed.

Summer Draw

Due to the enduring success of our Winter Draw we now also have a Summer Draw. This will be launched at the Garden & Food Festival in May and will run through to the final ticket draw at the Summer Fête. We plan to have major prizes, such as luxury Spa Days etc, and hope that it will be as successful at our Winter Draw.

Festive Evening

A popular Christmas showcase in December organised by the PA in conjunction with the Director of Music, Mr House. Talented students entertain an audience of family and friends with a mixture of music, dance and song. The evening is set up in cabaret style with tables and refreshments. Tickets always sell out quickly!

Winter Draw

In the autumn term the PA holds a Grand Winter Draw with top prizes such as a B&O speaker, dining vouchers for The Pig @ Coombe, a Fortnum & Mason hamper, vouchers etc. This is drawn at the Festive Evening and generally raises in the region of £2500.

The Silent Auction

Our own online auction is held every other year in the spring, the most recent being 2018. The auction lots have been exciting and varied including holiday lets, flight simulator experiences, tours of the Met Office, tickets to matches/theatres, cooking courses, a carriage ride, a champagne tea at Lords, and an animation workshop. The last Silent Auction raised £3333.

The Big Colyton Art Show

This major event launched in 2015 and runs every other year in the autumn term. It is a weekend exhibition and sale of art from professional artists and Colyton students. There is also an online catalogue. Over £100k of art is on show and a shop selling smaller items. There are workshops, student art and a café too. The three shows have so far raised £35,000 for PA funds. The next show will be in October 2020.

FOR MORE EVENTS INFORMATION VISIT **www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk**

UNIFORM

Second-Hand Uniform

The PA handles all the second-hand uniform sales for the school. This is a good way to save money and encourage recycling. You can easily submit a uniform enquiry form via the PA website or visit the stall at PA events: Garden & Food Festival, Summer Fete and the New Yr 7 Parents Induction. See below for dates and the PA website for more details.

www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk/uniforms

Blazers cost no more than £8 dependent on condition
Sixth Form shirts and Rugby Shirts are no more than £5 dependent on condition
Football boots cost up to £4 dependent on condition
Pleated skirts are £4 dependent on condition
Jumpers are £3
New style PE shorts are £3, skorts £4
Trousers and joggers are both £2
Ties/ PE shirts / boys shirts/ girls shirts…all simply £1
PE Socks are just 50p
(Please note that blazers and skirts will not be the new style being introduced in September for Year 7)

THE BIG COLYTON ART SHOW

www.thebigcolytonartshow.co.uk

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION?

We hope you have been able to get an idea of what the CGS Parents' Association is all about. We aim to engage in activities that support the parents, students and the staff.

We also completely understand that with our busy working lives not all parents have free time to offer "hands on" help. Please just do what you can! A donation for a raffle or tombola, a cake for a bake sale, a small financial donation or even buying a book of raffle tickets when they come home with your child – it all builds up to our amazing fund raising effort. The average PA raises £5-10,000 per year – Your CGSPA raise an average of £30,000 per year. Our school needs us more than ever to help fund items that are simply not in their budget.

We also hope that we can offer something that you would enjoy being actively involved in: whether it's the Book Club, coming to a meeting, joining the committee or just helping at an event, you are always most welcome.

Come and meet some of us at the Yr 7 Induction in the summer term and please do come along to the New Parents' Tea at the beginning of the school year in September.

We cannot run our events without our parent helpers. If you would like to get involved, even if you can only spare an hour, please register at the following URL or with the paper form enclosed with this handbook and we will add you to the circulation lists when we are asking for help.

www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk/parent-helpers

The legal bit! Any contact information that you give to CGSPA is treated with the utmost care, we do not give your details to any third parties and your contact information is only used for the purposes for which it is given. We fully comply with GDPR regulations.

We sincerely hope you and your child have a very happy time at Colyton Grammar School.

SOME NAMES

Committee Members (full list on PA website)

Chair:	Carolyn Blanshard (chair@colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk)
Vice-Chair:	Nicola Curtis
Treasurer:	Emma Baker (treasurer@colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk)
Secretary:	Rebecca Russell (secretary@colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk)
Assistant Treasurer:	David Boyce
Assistant Secretary:	(Vacant)
Website:	Chris Routley
Big Colyton Art Show:	Helen Hasham
Garden & Food Festival:	Frances Rogers & Sharon Thwaites
Summer Fête:	Ruth Cohen
Silent Auction:	Carolyn Ware
Festive Evening:	Nicola Strawbridge
Winter Draw:	Carolyn Blanshard
Second-hand uniform:	Sally-Ann Dewhurst
Year 7 Parents' contact:	Carolyn Ware
Social Media/publicity:	Louise Mayor

EVENTS CALENDAR

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Garden & Food Festival	Saturday	11th May 2019
New Yr 7 Students & Parents Induction	Wednesday	26th June 2019
Summer Fête	Thursday	18th July 2019
PA New Parents' Tea	Friday	6th September 2019
Festive Evening & Winter Draw	Wednesday	11th December 2019
Silent Auction (alternate years)		March 2020
Big Colyton Art Show (alternate years)		October 2020

You are very welcome at these events before you join in September; it is a great way to get to know the school.

www.facebook.com/ColytonGrammarSchoolPA

All parents are encouraged to follow us on Facebook.

We regularly post details of forthcoming events, general information and updates on our fundraising activities throughout the year and hopefully it will enable you to get connected with other Colyton parents.

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Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, you could be raising a free donation for CGSPA? In the last year we have raised approximately £1600 through Easy Fundraising.

There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, TheTrainLine and Sainsbury's, who'll give a free donation to our appeal and it doesn't cost you a penny extra. Head here to sign up:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/colytongrammarschoolpa

If you shop on your mobile or tablet, get the free easyfundraising app and you'll never miss a donation.

To get it, visit the App Store or Google Play and search for 'easyfundraising' or find out more here:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/easyfundraising-app

Alternatively, on your desktop download the donation reminder toolbar. It is simple and will let you know when your shopping will qualify for a donation. It really is so simple.

BIG COLYTON ART SHOW
COLYTON GARDEN & FOOD FESTIVAL
CGSPA
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SUMMER DRAW
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CGSPA
WINTER DRAW
TICKET
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