



Wednesday 12 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Appeal for volunteers for the Testbourne PTFA

I am writing to you to appeal for volunteers to help with our PTFA. Over the years, there have been several parents involved but as their children left us, and in the post-covid restrictions world, we seemed to have struggled in replacing them. The remaining volunteers have been nobly struggling on with few people, with the support of the school, to keep the organisation going. I sincerely thank them for their hard work in a very challenging time.

### What is the PTFA?

The PTFA is the Parents, Teachers, and Friends Association. Their role for the most part is to support the school, maintain their charitable status and raise funds through various events that they organise. In the past, these have included car boot sales, Christmas fayres (where we charge craft business owners to have a stall), discos, quiz nights, and just about anything you can think of. To maintain its charitable status, the PTFA must have a chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer as a minimum. The more volunteers there are, however, the lower the level of commitment needed from each person.

### What impact does the PTFA have?

The PTFA's work is extremely important for the school. We have particularly low levels of funding, due to the way school funding is calculated, and our commitment to spend money on curriculum and facilities to fully benefit children now and in the future is sometimes at odds with the finances available. The PTFA provide another avenue of funding for us. In the past, they have provided several thousands of pounds for things like:

- contribution to a refurbished laser cutter for DT that we would not have been able to afford otherwise but desperately needed;
- contributions for science equipment such as the electronics equipment;
- contributions for new PE equipment;
- contributions for new keyboards in music;
- the canteen kiosk;
- the library and library books;
- the art department printing press;
- the Theatre Hall stage lighting;
- maths textbooks;

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- science equipment;
- picnic benches for children to use at lunchtime and much more.

The PTFA's contributions to the school have provided a legacy for the members' own children and the rest of the children now and in the future.

## What's involved for volunteers?

We need to fill the three main roles for the PTFA: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

This need not take up lots of your time but does require some commitment. We do also require a range of parents of children of all year groups to volunteer to attend meetings and help to organise fundraising events. We would especially like to hear from our new Year 7 parents as you are likely to be connected to the school for longer. There is less commitment in these roles and the commitment can be more flexible, although to be more effective, it is good to have a stable group of parents who can help-out with the organisation of the events.

Our aim is to have one meeting per half term plus our AGM.

## What will happen if we do not get any volunteers?

Sadly, the PTFA would fold. It cannot meet its statutory commitments to maintain its charitable status if it does not have parents in each of the main roles and it is too much hard work for a small number of parents if we do not get enough volunteers. The impact will be the loss of significant donations that improve the provision for our students and often have a legacy.

## What if I cannot commit any time but would like to donate money?

You can donate money to the PTFA at any time by visiting our Just Giving web page at <https://www.justgiving.com/ptfa-testbourneschool>

You can also raise funds for the PTFA simply through online shopping. Sign up with <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and search for [Testbourne Parents Teachers & Friends Association](#). Thousands of brands give back when you spend through this site. Brands include Amazon, Tesco, M&S, Etsy, Screwfix, Trainline, Curry's and more.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, the PTFA is an essential organisation to provide valuable resource for the school: the students, staff, and community alike.

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If you would like to be part of the Testbourne PTFA and support the school and students with the fantastic events I have named above, you can do so by contacting my PA Mrs Mitchell, at [k.mitchell@testbourne.school](mailto:k.mitchell@testbourne.school) who will liaise with the PTFA Senior Leadership Team link, Mrs Gray.

The next AGM, which anyone can attend, is scheduled for **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**. More details will follow in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr J Beck**

Headteacher

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