



Colyton
Grammar
School **PA**

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Colyton Grammar School Parents' Association

Registered Charity Number 273999

Chair: Mark Agnew

www.colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk
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Welcome to 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 well looked after, but they have one another; for parents and guardians it can sometimes not be quite so easy. With this in mind, the Parents' Association (PA) have put together this booklet in which you will find information on PA events during the year, second-hand uniform sales, the Book Club, meetings and a calendar of events.

All parents, guardians & 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 booklet both helpful and informative. Please email me or the PA secretary if we can be of any help with PA matters.

Mark Agnew

Chair

Colyton Grammar School Parents' Association

What Can The PA 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 teachers, if available. So it is an 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 Y7 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. A form can be found at the back of this booklet if you wish to participate.

Members of the PA committee will also be at the **New Y7 Parents Induction afternoon** 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.

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 emails announcing all meetings and events.

The Big PA Book Club

The PA began the Book Club in 2011. This is one big club divided into nine 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 meet twice per term in our branches and once a year at school for the whole club. Branches are centred on areas around:

Colyford (two branches: Tuesday or Thursday), Exeter, Exmouth, Sidmouth/Newton Poppleford, Honiton/Ottery, Axminster, West Hill and Ilminster.

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

The Book Club is very popular and we always welcome new members.

[if you wish to start a new group in a different area, please contact the PA – see page 10]

What does the PA do for the School and the 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.

In recent years the PA was very proud 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, providing a digital camera, Raspberry Pi computers for IT 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 memory space. In 2014 the PA paid the full £19,000 to secure a new minibus. We have paid for outdoor table tennis tables, equipment for Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, iPads for PE and contributed to the new 3D printer. We have just funded new sports vests and rugby shirts. All these contributions made by parents make a very real difference to the school & students.

All proceeds from our events go towards raising money for the school for the benefit of our children's education. Every year we have a new goal and new parents are particularly welcomed to help us achieve it. The PA is currently raising £100,000 for the Space4Science Appeal. This will end in October 2017 and the money will contribute significantly to the expansion of the science facilities.



You can also support the appeal by shopping through Easyfundraising. This is a simple way to raise money. Please try it yourself. (see page 11 for details)

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

But along with raising money, we also organise events to help contribute to the richness of school life.

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 & food market. There are a variety of local food producers & 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.

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 an excellent raffle and a second-hand uniform stall. With some 70 stalls this is not to be missed.

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 GoPro 5 action camera, an Apple watch, hampers, vouchers etc. This is drawn at the Festive Evening.

The Silent Auction

Our own online auction is held every other year in the spring. The auction lots have been exciting and varied including holiday lets, tours of the Met Office, tickets to matches/theatres, cooking courses, a carriage ride, a champagne tea at Lords, and an animation workshop.

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. At the inaugural show we raised £11k and in 2016 over £12k. The next show will be in October 2018.

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.

What could you do for 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 hope that it might be something that you would like to be 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 welcome.

Come and meet some of us at the **Y7 Induction Morning** in the summer term and please do come along to the **New Parents' Tea** at the beginning of the school year in September.

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

Please cut this page out and return it to Reception [or at the Induction Day] along with your reply slip to the Year 7 New Parents' Tea in September.

(please write **clearly** & complete each section in full as they will be separated)

Year 7 Parents' contact list

If you would like to share your contact details with other parents with children IN THE SAME TUTOR GROUP, then please complete your details below. In doing so you agree to only use the contact details of other parents for social reasons and not for general en masse emails in any way. You also agree not to use or display commercial email signatures with business contacts or websites, or any references to commercial websites that may be construed as advertising.

Name:..... Child Name:.....

Email:..... Telephone:.....

Town/area:..... Postcode:.....

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Book Club

Yes, please, I would/might like to join the CGSPA Book Club. Please send me more details [if you wish to start a new group in a different area, please say so]

Name..... Email.....

The group I am interested in is (please circle):

Colyford (Tuesdays) - Colyford (Thursdays) - Exeter - Exmouth - West Hill

Sidmouth/Newton Poppleford - Honiton/Ottery - Axminster - Ilminster

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Parents' Association: Join the Helpers List

I may be able to help out at events from time to time and I am happy to be contacted about this and would like to receive news from the PA.

Name..... Child's name.....

Email.....

Any special skills useful to PA? (e.g. accounts, websites, marketing)

Some Names and Dates:

Committee Members (full list on PA website)

Chair:	Mark Agnew (chair@colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk)
Vice-Chair:	Carolyn Blanshard
Treasurer:	Tony Smith (treasurer@colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk)
Secretary:	Rebecca Russell (secretary@colytongrammarschoolpa.org.uk)
Assistant Treasurer:	Emma Baker
Assistant Secretary:	Elaine Gamwell
Website:	Alastair Bruce
Big Colyton Art Show:	Helen Hasham
Garden & Food Festival:	Frances Rogers & Sharon Thwaites
Summer Fête:	Ruth Cohan
Silent Auction:	Matt Day
Festive Evening:	Nicola Strawbridge
Winter Draw:	Carolyn Blanshard
Second-hand uniform:	Sally-Ann Dewhurst
Book Club:	Heidi Merrett
250 Club:	Bhavna Chandra
Year 7 Parents' contact:	Carolyn Blanshard
Social Media/publicity:	Louise Mayor

Calendar of events:

Garden & Food Festival	Saturday	13 th May 2017
New Y7 Students & Parents' Induction	Wednesday	28 th June 2017
Summer Fête	Thursday	20 th July 2017
PA New Parents' Tea	Friday	8 th September 2017
Festive Evening & Winter Draw	Wednesday	6 th December 2017
Silent Auction (alternate years)		March 2018
Big Colyton Art Show (alternate years)		October 2018

**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.

Here we will post details of forthcoming events and fundraising activities throughout the year and hopefully it will enable you to get connected with other Colyton parents.



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, you could be raising a free donation for Colyton Grammar School's Space4Science Appeal?

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.

