



The MGS Parents' Society is very active in both fund-raising and providing a social focus for parents or guardians and families of boys attending The Manchester Grammar School.

In the following pages of this booklet you will find details of several Society matters, most of them especially relevant to new parents. We hope you will find one or two things that are of interest to you and we hope that you feel you can participate where it is relevant to you.

Many new parents have commented that the Parents' Society has made them feel more part of the MGS community.

Please note that the Society forms may be returned directly by post or email to the appropriate member of the Parents' Society, however, if you prefer you may put them in an envelope marked "MGS Parents' Society" and return it to the MGS Reception. You may, of course, put any forms in the pre-paid envelope enclosed and return it to the Admissions Office along with the other forms by **Friday 20 May**.

Thank you.

Dear Parent or Guardian

Congratulations to your son and a warm welcome to The Manchester Grammar School Parents' Society.

As the parent or guardian of an MGS pupil, you are automatically a member of MGS Parents' Society which exists to encourage friendly relations between parents and School. It helps to provide extra facilities for the boys which are not included in the ordinary budget. Last year from our various fund-raising activities, we made a large donation to the School towards the new Drama Centre; the year before we contributed to new cricket nets and scoreboards and we have also made many smaller contributions for items such as D of E equipment, Mountain Biking Club shirts, football strip for the Junior School and hockey goalkeeper's kit.

We are involved in many activities at School – see below - and we are a support network for parents, helping them to meet socially and compare notes.

Our AGM is held in the Summer Term. Next summer, why not come along and meet us? Meanwhile, we have a Pie and Quiz night planned for November, which is lots of fun, and gives you the opportunity to meet other new parents along with those who already know the ropes. Our annual Burns Night Supper in January is always a sell out: it not only raises a great deal of money for the School, but also provides an opportunity to dress up and try out your Scottish dancing skills!

A rota of parents provides refreshments after the Saturday morning sports fixtures, for boys and parents. We sell boot bags and swim bags, and souvenirs eg cuff links - the ideal gift when your son leaves Sixth Form, far off though that day may now appear! We help with the perennial problem of lost property. Our *200 Club* is very popular and raises a lot of funds. We sell second-hand uniform which also raises funds. Forms appear in this booklet if you wish to participate in any of these. If you mislay any of your forms, you can find them on the school website, in the Publications section under the Parents' Society category.

I do hope that you become involved with us and benefit from our activities. Your support does not have to be in person – donations for raffle prizes are always welcome, you could volunteer to help on a specific basis for one event, or you might want to come along and help us plan our activities.

If every parent contributed to one of our activities each year this really would make a huge difference.

I hope to meet you at School over the coming months. Meanwhile, if you have any queries, ideas, or suggestions or would like more details about anything at all to do with your Society, please do not hesitate to email us at [**parents@mgs.org**](mailto:parents@mgs.org)

Yours sincerely

Diane Hawkins
Chairman - MGS Parents' Society

Rosie Ames-Greenall
Chairman-Elect

Parents' Society Events in 2011/2012

You are most welcome to join us at all of the following events. For more details and tickets for any of the events below, please see the Parents' Society section of the MGS website or contact Jenny Forshaw, the Parents' Society Events Coordinator.

Anyone interested in helping, providing sponsorship or donating raffle prizes? Please contact Jenny.

E: jenny.forshaw@virgin.net

T: 077147 18220

2011 Events

Monday 4 July – Year 7 Evening

Distribution of boot bags and swim bags. Second-hand uniform sale, etc.

Monday 5 September - Year 7 Induction Day

New parents Coffee Morning – meet other new parents as your son meets his new classmates and ask current parents all those things you might not want to ask the staff!

Friday 4 November 7:30 pm - Pie and Quiz Night with Quiz Master Rodger Alderson

This was very popular with parents last year. You can come alone and we will group you into a team, or reserve a table. Tickets £10 per person.

2012 Event

Saturday 21 January - Burns Night Celebration and Dancing

In the Refectory at MGS. Scottish dancing and traditional dinner. Tickets £35.

Parents' Society Council and contact details

In addition to the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, the Parents' Society Council includes coordinators for the following areas:-

- Refreshments
- Social Events
- Second-Hand Uniform and Lost Property
- Form Social Representatives
- School Souvenirs
- 200 Club
- Publicity
- Old Mancunians

More information about everything in this section can be obtained from the **My MGS/Parents Society** area of the MGS website, or by contacting us on our email address

parents@mgs.org

MGS Boot Bags and Swim Bags

Your son will need sports bags during his time at the School. The MGS Parents' Society has produced a Boot Bag and a Swim Bag in school colours with the logo prominently featured and a space for your son's name. This makes it easy to locate on the bus or at another school. Both types of bag retail at **£7 each**.

If you would like to purchase either one or both of these items, please fill in the form at the end of this booklet, and either return it in the pre-paid envelope with the other forms or post it to me at the address on the form as soon as you can. Hopefully, these items will be available for collection from the Parents' Society table in the Refectory on the evening of 4 July. Please make your cheque payable to ***MGS Parents' Society*** and write your son's name and Year 7 on the back of the cheque.

I have also included a souvenirs order form, which you may find interesting. It may be a little early to think about MGS Souvenirs, but they make perfect gifts for pupils, Old Mancunians and relatives alike. The souvenirs are on display in the window of the Bookshop.

Thank you.

Rita Anand

T: 01625 860490

Year 7 form social representatives

Dear Parent or Guardian

Would you like to have some informal social contact with new parents like yourself? We would love one or two of you to volunteer to help to work with your own class to get you all together. Please read on.

As your son gets older and more independent, sometimes you may feel as if a bit of informal contact with some other MGS parents might be nice. A lot of boys are the only boy to come to MGS from their junior school. Their parents can feel a bit like everyone else knows each other except them. Not true! It's usually the complete opposite.

We often get phone calls from mums asking something they are embarrassed to ask the School "What is your son wearing for Owls' Nest?" or "I would love to do a lift share after rugby training but who lives near me?"

In the past, one or two people from each class have volunteered to help organise a social meet with the boys and mums/dads in the class – possibly in the holidays before September. A coffee at Costa Coffee or John Lewis, a pizza out, bowling ... last year one mum organised a canoeing event at Salford Quays, all very informal, but many mums have said it was so valuable to them at the time.

Many MGS mums work, so getting together can be quite hard, but many do seem to manage it. In fact, most of the current form social representatives have some sort of job, from eminent professors to housewives! It isn't a lot of work and we'll help you along. If you would like to help your class get together and have a 'bond' please let me know.

I am hoping to finalise a group of helpers (or representatives) by 4 July (Year 7 Evening) to enable you to collect some names of interested parents in your class on the day. Unfortunately if no one volunteers for your class, you may miss out!

Not sure whether to volunteer? Any queries? Email me or give me a ring.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you very much.

Trish Kilgour – Form Social Representative Coordinator

E: trishkilgour@aol.com

T: 07971 442027

Lost property and second-hand uniform at MGS

- The next second-hand uniform sale is on Monday 4 July at the Year 7 Evening.
- Completely kit-out your son for 2011/12 for the cost of a new blazer!
- The key to finding lost items at MGS is to understand the system and have items **named**.
- We always need volunteers to help sort the lost property at MGS.
- Why not join us for a sort and a chat once a term?

The “Lost Property Mountain” at MGS has to be seen to be believed. Each year the Parents’ Society raises about £800 for the School through our second-hand sales and gives over eighty bin-liners full of clothes/bags to various charities. The best way to ensure that your son is reunited with his lost property is to make sure that it is **named**. Initials alone are not enough in a school the size of MGS! So please make sure that all your son’s items are clearly marked, preferably with something that does not rub off. It is important to re-name items if they are passed to other sons during the school year.

The lost property process

The lost property system at MGS is run by volunteers from the Parents’ Society. During every holiday the porters “sweep” the School for lost uniform, bags etc. A team of helpers then sort through the items. Anything named is put into a bin-liner, one for each form in the School. Form Tutors then distribute these to their forms. Un-named items are stored in the lost property area in the basement of the main stairwell for two weeks, during which time boys can rummage for their belongings. After a fortnight the Parents’ Society will take any un-named items of sellable uniform for the next second-hand sale. Any non-uniform items that are not named are then washed and given to charity.

Second-hand uniform

If your son grows out of uniform or sports kit we would be delighted to receive it for our next second hand sale. Donations should be taken to Reception, where they will be passed on to the appropriate people.

Want to help us? Please sign up

We have a wonderful team of dedicated helpers who sort through the lost property mountain. It normally takes no more than two hours and is much more fun than it sounds! We have a good chat and nearly always find something we didn’t realise our own sons had lost.

If you would like to join us in a sorting session, we would love to meet you. Contact me, Lauren Foster, for further information or if you have any queries about lost property or second-hand sales at MGS.

Lauren Foster – Second-hand Uniform and Lost Property Coordinator

E: laurenjaynefoster@hotmail.com

T: 0161 794 4963

Saturday refreshments

The Manchester Grammar School has a thriving Sports Department and the Refreshments Committee is always in need of helpers to serve our teams, and visitors, with refreshments after the Saturday sports fixtures. The teams' supporters - parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters - are also offered tea, coffee and biscuits which are very welcome, particularly after a morning standing on a cold touchline!

During the Michaelmas and Lent Terms help is needed for the football, rugby and Harriers refreshments; in the Summer Term we serve cricket teas. It isn't arduous work and you get to meet other mums, dads and members of the MGS community.

Could you spare a few hours, on a Saturday, once a term?

It's a great opportunity for you to support a group that raises money for the Parents' Society funds and represents the hospitable side of The Manchester Grammar School to other schools.

If your son does not participate in the sports fixtures, come and join us anyway. Many mums and dads already do.

If you do decide to offer to help, you will be allocated to an experienced Team Leader who will contact you and guide you on the day. It is just a few hours, once or twice a year, and your help would be very much appreciated.

Remember, you don't need to have a sporty son to get involved!

If you think you can help, please complete the relevant reply slip and return it to me, Fiona Geiger – MGS Refreshments, either via the School, or via my email.

With thanks and best wishes

Fiona Geiger – Refreshments Coordinator

E: fionageiger@yahoo.co.uk

T: 0161 904 9835

M: 07967 829033

Parents' Society 200 Club

I am writing to invite you to join The Manchester Grammar School Parents' Society 200 Club.

The annual subscription to the 200 Club is **£15** per club member. Many people choose to take more than one membership, ie, take two or more numbers at £15 a number. We hold 15 draws throughout the year and seasonal bonus draws. We aim to give back 50% of the proceeds from subscriptions as prize money - prizes this year ranged in value from £50 to £200. Winners are notified by post or email. The other 50% is retained by the MGS Parents' Society to contribute to many projects in School, which benefit the boys.

The 200 Club is one of the main fund-raising activities of the Parents' Society. The more people who join, the bigger and better the prizes we are able to offer, but perhaps more importantly the more money we are able to provide for funding school projects.

The range and diversity of projects supported is wide and includes those listed below. We try to support projects of all sizes to ensure that as many boys as possible benefit, such as:-

- Musical instruments ~ clarinet; saxophone; oboe; xylophone; keyboards; bagpipes
- Tents for trek and the D of E scheme
- Slide scanner; cameras
- Refurbishment of the Butty Bar
- Cricket nets
- Outdoor chess set
- Kit for various clubs

If you would like to subscribe to the 200 Club, please complete the application form and return it to me. In order to simplify our administration and keep the cost of the scheme to a minimum, we accept payment by standing order only. Please see the application form.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Karen Leach

A: Gorsecot, Booth Road, Altrincham, WA14 4AU

E: andywleach@aol.com

T: 07919 083184