



Parents/Guardians of All Pupils

20 May 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to commend to you the Morrison's Academy Parents' Association (MAPA).

It has come to my attention that a significant number of parents (in which term I include guardians, grand-parents, former parents and those in *loco parentis* to a Morrison's pupil) are unsure of what MAPA does and unaware of what MAPA can do for them.

MAPA was formed for the purposes of fostering social relations between the parents of Morrison's Academy pupils and of promoting links between the school and the parental body. Put another way MAPA operates to bring about social connection both among parents and between parents and the school. MAPA also does the important jobs of fundraising for the school and operating the Nearly New Shop. However, these roles are secondary to the fundamental task of encouraging social interaction.

MAPA exists for the benefit and assistance of every parent of a Morrison's pupil yet I am aware that not all parents feel they derive benefit from MAPA. In an effort to bridge this gap and ensure that every parent has the opportunity to play an active part in MAPA, we have decided to institute a system of parent representatives. To that end, the parent body of each class will have a representative appointed from amongst their number to act on behalf of those parents, bringing them together with the wider parental body and passing suggestions for social events on to the MAPA committee.

As this is a new scheme I, in conjunction with the MAPA committee, will start by calling for volunteers to act as class representatives. We will then appoint a representative (rep) from amongst the volunteers: in future years we anticipate the class reps being appointed by the parents themselves.

Each class representative will serve for one year only. It will not be an onerous position to hold; the rep's first duty will be to host a get-together for the parents of his or her class. This would probably have to be an evening meeting, perhaps over an informal drink, so as not to conflict with parents' work commitments. If you would like to act as the class rep but are unsure about hosting the get-together, the MAPA committee will be happy to help. Your first get-together of class parents need be nothing more than a drink and a chat.

During the year the class rep's duties will include: -

- * organising a social occasion/s for the parents of his or her class
- * collecting ideas from his or her class parents for gatherings of all parents across year groups and throughout the school
- * liaising with the MAPA committee to pass on those ideas and helping to arrange such gatherings
- * enlisting volunteers from his or her parent group to help staff MAPA's hospitality stands at school events such as Sports Day and the Christmas Fayre.

To make the role easier for class reps, a member of the MAPA committee, Jo Ann Munro, has been given specific responsibility for liaising with reps and answering any questions or helping to resolve any problems the rep may encounter. If you want to discuss the position of parent representative before deciding on whether or not to volunteer, you can contact Jo Ann on classrep@jomunro.com or by telephoning the school office.

If you are willing to act as the parent representative for your child's class please complete the tear-off slip and return it to the school by Friday 29th May. Please note that if you act as a class rep it will be necessary to share your telephone number (and e-mail address if you use e-mail) with the other parents in your child's class, so they can contact you when required.

To begin our new social programme we will be holding the inaugural MAPA Family Barbeque on Saturday 5th September 2009. This will be a purely social occasion, it will not be a fund-raiser and it is free to all Morrison's pupils, parents and families. MAPA will supply food and a variety of soft drinks. There will be entertainment, games and activities suitable for all ages. I hope you will all come and get things off to a really good start.

In closing, I want to make it very clear that every parent is always welcome to approach me personally. The new class representative system is not a substitute for parents having direct access to me; rather it is to provide a basis for social interaction among parents and between parents and the school.

Yours sincerely

Simon Pengelley
Rector and Principal



=====

MAPA CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

To be returned by Friday 29th May

I (INSERT NAME) mother/father of (INSERT CHILD'S NAME) am willing to act as a class representative for class (INSERT CHILD'S CLASS).

My telephone number/s is/are: HOME: WORK:
MOBILE:

My e-mail address is:

I agree to these contact details being shared with the other parents of my child's class.

Signed:

Dated: