

## **The Old Portmuthian Charity**

**Welcome** to the web pages of the Old Portmuthian Charity.

### **Objects**

The Charity was set up in 1992 with the following object.

- (i) to advance education at The Portsmouth Grammar School in such ways as the Trustees from time to time think fit, including assisting in the provision, maintenance, improvement or extension of the premises of the School.
- (ii) To provide relief for any person in need, hardship or distress who is:
  - (a) A past or present pupil of the School.
  - (b) A past or present member of staff of the School; or
  - (c) The spouse, former spouse or dependent of any such person.

### **Policy**

The Trustees present policy is that the **bulk** of money distributed should be devoted to bursaries. Thanks to the generosity of OPs, the Charity was able, in 2004, to set up an Old Portmuthian Bursary Fund as part of the School Appeal. This continues to help finance some needy pupils through the Sixth Form. More recently, the Charity has provided additional funds for the same purpose and for 2008 to 2010 is funding one full-fee Sixth Form Bursary. Over the years, the Charity has also helped, in a small way, five OPs doing postgraduate degrees.

In October the Trustees agreed to donate £5 000 towards the cost of the climbing wall to be built in the Sports Hall in memory of Roger Harris. This sum is in addition to several generous donations from OPs that have been channeled through the Charity.

### **About the Charity**

Despite the generosity of some OPs, the funds available to the Charity are still small. From figures provided by the School, we estimate that the OP Charity contributes about 1% of the total annual budget for scholarships and bursaries throughout the School. In the Sixth Form alone our contribution usually helps one or two applicants at a time, whereas about 15 apply annually for financial assistance. Clearly we could do much more if we had the necessary funds. We would emphasise that all those we have helped and propose to help must make out a very strong case of need. Some of the circumstances are most distressing.

The importance of the availability of bursaries has been heightened by the new rules regarding the charitable status of independent schools. In the past it has been sufficient for such schools simply to provide education in order to satisfy the test of 'public benefit'. This is no longer the case, and the School is now required to report to the Charity Commission through its annual governors' report on the 'public benefit' it provides. The single most important aspect of this for a fee-paying school is the provision of significant bursary support to families who could not otherwise have sent their child to PGS.

Donations of any amount are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Details of the

various ways of donating are given under '**How to Donate**'.

**Trustees**

These are responsible for the policy of the Charity. Presently they are;

Chris Ayling	(50 – 56)
Barry Easton (Hon Treasurer)	(69 – 76)
Tony Evans	(HM 84 – 97)
Nick Gauntlett	(77 – 87)
Max Lankester (OP Club President 2009/10)	(60 – 67)
Michael Shepherd (Chairman)	(48 – 57)
Robert Venables	(50 – 56)

They meet twice yearly, usually in February and October. Their last meeting was on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 and the next one is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> 2010.