

Dear Parent

Welcome back after the summer break, a very warm welcome to all new parents to St Gerard's school. We are delighted to invite you to the St Gerard's School AGM including a talk from leading Irish International Rugby player and DCU Rugby Development Officer, [Sophie Spence](#). I hope to see many of you on the night.

Parent's Association AGM Monday 25th September 7.15pm - Junior School Hall

The St Gerard's Parents' Association is actively looking for new members from both the Junior and Senior school.

The AGM is on Monday 25th September and typically we meet once a month in the Senior school. All our members are involved in one of the sub committees focusing on one particular area. These areas are:

- **Communications**
- **Education**
- **Social awareness**

The role of the PA is to provide a forum for the third branch of the School Community – the Parents. Our Association is one of the few of its kind that represent parents at both Junior and Senior level.

The Parents' Association is involved in many areas of school life and key roles include:

- Facilitating ease of communication between school management and parents
- Inviting speakers to address parents on topical interests of relevance such as managing the emotional and mental wellbeing of students, parenting, appropriate internet usage, cyber bullying and general health and wellbeing.
- Annual social events such as The Winter Ball, Golf Outing, Family Tennis etc. Many of these events have a significant charitable fundraising aspect to them.
- Yearly donations to School initiatives such as library books for the Junior and Senior School Libraries, and Spirit of the School awards. There are also one-off donations such as sponsoring sports jerseys, piano, foil blankets etc.
- Arranging Art and Literary competitions for students.
- Helping to organise annual mock interview careers mornings for our 5th year students.
- Issuing regular Newsletters to parents.

In addition, the PA put together an online Business Directory to promote parents supporting each other's businesses wherever possible - available on the St Gerard's website under Community section.

If you wish to put your name forward please fill out of the [attached form](#) and drop it to either of the Senior school or Junior school offices. If you would like to find out more information about the Parents Association please email parents.association@stgerards.ie or contact one of the current members.

Kind regards

Margaret Brightling
Chairperson

Current Members: Margaret Brightling, Marie Happonen, John Connolly, Laura Brennan, Pauline Burke, Rosemarie Maguire, Barry Orr, Edwina O'Sullivan, Emma Galvin, Suzanne Dalton, Melanie Reilly, Orla Van den Bergh, Roland Keogh

Sophie Spence



Biography

Sophie studied at the University of Teesside where she completed her Undergraduate degree in Sports Coaching Science, Masters in Sports Psychology and a PGCE teaching Qualification. It was there that she joined the University rugby team during her masters after years of playing netball.

After Sophie completing her PGCE she took a role as a Sports tutor in Hartlepool 6th Form College for 3 years teaching BTEX to students aged 16-19. It was after her 2nd international season when she made the decision to move to Dublin in 2013 to train with the squad focusing on the 2014 World Cup.

Spending a year working with Leinster coaching in schools and clubs she finished her post with a week's Girls School of Excellence program alongside the boys hosting 93 girls aged 12-18 the week before heading to compete in France. Post World Cup she began her current position as DCU's Rugby development officer, overseeing rugby in the college, working with scholarship students and delivering recruitment and access motivational talks to increase awareness of the college and progression into higher education.

AWARDS:

- 2013 Grand Slam
- 2013/14 Leinster women's Player of the year
- 2014 World Cup Semi Final / Beat New Zealand
- 2015 6 Nations Championship
- 2015 Irish Times and Irish Sports Council Sports Woman of the month February
- 2015 Guinness Rugby Writers female player of the year
- 2015 World Rugby Nominee for Player of the year



St. Gerard's School Parents' Association
Thornhill Road, Bray, Co Wicklow

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST. GERARD'S SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting for the Parents' Association will take place in the Junior School Hall, St Gerard's School, Thornhill Road, Bray, on Monday 25th September 2017.

As always, we are looking for new members to join the PA as there will be a number of places available. Please fill out the Nomination Form below and return to the school office marked for the attention of Marie Happonen, Secretary, St Gerard's PA, if you are interested in joining.

We look forward to welcoming all parents to our AGM.

Committee Nomination Form 2017/2018

(Block Capitals)

Nominee: _____ (name)

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

For the 2017/2018 Parents' Association Committee

Proposed by: _____ (name)

Seconded by: _____ (name)

I agree to stand for election to the 2017/2018 Committee

Signed: _____ (nominee)

Children in Class(es): _____

Completed forms should be returned by Friday 22nd September 2017 to :
Marie Happonen, Secretary, St Gerard's Parents' Association, Junior or Senior School Office.