

The Constitution has not been changed for approximately 10 years and in that time, we have seen changes to the way that the Old Scholars Committee and the Association operate. The lives of Old Scholars are busier than ever before and we rely on technology to conduct meetings, on the School (and the staff) to provide administrative support to the Committee and in addition to that, there have been changes to the financial threshold at which Associations are legally required to conduct independent audits of the finances.

Given the modernisation of many of the standard provisions in constitutions for Associations, we are suggesting that the Association adopt a brand new Constitution, which reflects modern practices for Associations (the template is supplied by the Consumer and Business Services branch in South Australia), while also ensuring that it is carefully adapted to suit the needs of the Walford Old Scholars' Association.

Aside from the generic updates, we draw your attention to the following changes:

#### *Improving clarity*

- Re-writing the objects of the Association, to ensure that they continue to reflect the current activities and initiatives of the Association
- The previous Constitution referred to Associate Members, Life Members and Financial Members of the Association, which was relevant when membership of the Association required a separate payment by students as they concluded their education. Currently, school leavers automatically become members of the Association upon completing their education in year 12 and we have attempted to recognise this, while also ensuring that existing members are not affected. The membership fee for these students is taken at the time of enrolment for the student and held on trust by the School, until they become members of the Association. The Constitution has also been updated to reflect this current practice.

#### *Improving administrative efficiency*

- The Constitution currently requires the Committee to have a minimum of nine (9) members, being three (3) office bearers and six (6) committee members. We are proposing to reduce the minimum member requirement to seven, being three (3) office bearers and at least four (4) members, while allowing for up to twelve (12). This ensures the ongoing function of the Committee of the Association, including in years where the membership may fluctuate.
- We have proposed that the length of term on the Committee is two (2) years, meaning that members are not required to re-nominate for election at every AGM
- We have updated the responsibilities of the Secretary and the Treasurer, to reflect the current duties performed by those office bearers

- We have updated the number of members required to form quorum at a meeting, to reflect the new number of Committee members
- We have updated the information which is maintained by the School in the Register of Members, and ensured that the access to these records reflects present-day privacy considerations

*Improving financial sustainability*

- An Association which meets the definition of a 'Prescribed Association' under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985* is required to perform an annual audit of the Association's finances. An Association meets this definition if it has 'gross receipts in that association's previous financial year in excess of... \$500,000'. The Walford Old Scholars Association does not generate this cashflow and so we have removed the requirement in the Constitution to undertake an external audit, thus saving the Association approximately \$1,400 per annum (or more).

We encourage you to contact the School with any questions relating to the above, or to attend the meeting on 8 December 2025, at 6.00pm at Walford.