



AGM

Thursday, 14th March 2019, 8pm

The Bullfinch, Sevenoaks

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Friends of Trinity School (FOTS) exists in order to enhance our children's school lives by raising money to buy equipment and experiences and to support the community ethos of Trinity school. We are a small group of committee members and Trustees who work to make things happen, but it's the wider community of Friends who make it a success. So we are reliant on your support – only by coming along to our events and bringing your friends and family, are we able to make a significant contribution to the school.

In September we achieved charitable status which offers a number of benefits including opportunities to apply for grants and additional funding. FOTS is also now registered with HMRC and so is eligible to claim giftaid on donations.

Also in September we welcomed Jenny Godfrey as our new school liaison. Employed by Trinity as Business Development Officer, Jenny is a natural point of contact for FOTS and she and Michelle have been working closely to identify grants and charitable funding which Trinity / FOTS can access.

Since our last AGM, fundraising events have included the Trinity Teaser quiz night, for which we are continually grateful to year 10 dads, Pat and David, our resident quiz masters. We have hosted two discos for years 7 and 8, one at the end of the school year and another at Christmas, both have proved hugely popular with our younger students.

We also held the TRINfest event in June, an opportunity for our students to perform and for the school community to gather. Sadly, we have decided not to continue this event as it requires a lot of organisation and attendance has declined. Since TRINfest mainly attracted new students looking forward to joining Trinity in year 7, we are planning a more targeted event for these families this year. Prospective year 6 students and their parents will be invited to Trinity after school on Tuesday 16th July, the students will enjoy PE activities and meet their form whilst parents are presented with information about starting at Trinity plus information on the work of FOTS and how they can get involved. FOTS will then provide a barbeque and other refreshments to the captive audience!

In September we were sadly unable to find a crew for the Bewl Water Dragon Boat festival which in the previous year was very profitable for us. The Bewl Water festival is no longer running but we have reserved a boat in the Chipstead Dragon Boat event and we are looking for anyone who would be willing to lead a crew, it takes place on Bank Holiday Monday.

Leading up to Christmas we once again promoted the FOTS raffle to which many local businesses generously donated prizes, and, new for this year, hosted a Christmas wreath making workshop which was very enjoyable.

Other ongoing fundraising activities include the 100 Club which is run by Sarah Forret. It's a very easy way for parents to support the school by buying a number which is entered into a draw each month with the chance of a monetary prize. Penny Robson runs the second hand uniform sales, stock is now listed on our new website and is very easy for parents to view availability and purchase. We're always very grateful for donations of uniform. Also, we are registered with easyfundraising.com whereby online retailers contribute a small percentage of sales to a nominated cause, this builds up to quite a significant amount of funds if lots of people use it. There are currently 54 people signed up to [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.com) naming Trinity School as their chosen cause, so there is much untapped potential.

Besides the fundraising aspect, FOTS also arrange coffee gatherings each term, mornings and afternoons, to try to accommodate everyone. It's an opportunity to meet other parents.

We also support the school by serving teas and coffees at parent's evenings and other events throughout the school year. Inga Heath coordinates this service and would welcome more volunteers to assist.

Other activity planned for this year includes selling refreshments at sports day and a potential comedy night, hosted in collaboration with the sixth form as an outlet for their Brewing Society in the form of beer tasting. It is hoped that by involving the students we can entice the parents to attend.

All these efforts ultimately go towards providing the funds to support whatever is needed by the school. Mr Pawson has a long wishlist and the new head of PE has big ideas to grow her department. So far since last AGM we have contributed towards new laptops, paid for a cheerleading club, covered the cost of the Duke of Edinburgh Award licence and contributed to the Year 11 prom.

It is a sad fact that with the exception of the discos, our events and initiatives held since the last AGM, including last week's quiz night and the Christmas raffle have been poorly supported. We need to all work together to try to increase engagement from the wider school community.

There will always be something worthwhile which needs paying for so let's keep up the hard work and help to make a difference for our children. We welcome new committee members, we need people who are hands on and can get engaged with our activities, if you think that might be you, please get in touch!