

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHAIR'S REPORT – 2018-2019

The FTS has continued to work to *'bring the strong and inclusive community of Truro parents, pupils and teachers together'*, as stated in the constitution. The annual range of community events have been improved upon in their implementation, and participation has mainly grown year on year.

EVENTS

The following events have been held at the schools:

- The Prep Christmas Fair fell on one of the wildest weather days of the year and, although the fair had to be kept inside, it was the usual fun-filled event, with its festive mixture of fundraising stalls and creative parent-run Christmas themed activities. Thanks, as always, to Sue MacIntosh and her team for the catering.
- The Truro School Christmas Fair was smaller than in previous years, with around 15 external vendors participating, and volunteer parent helpers assisting on the food counter throughout the course of the event. Several students ran charity stalls. The footfall was less than it had been before and fewer vendors wanted stalls, so it was decided that we should rethink our main Christmas event at Truro School. So many Christmas fairs and events take place all over Cornwall, and it is a task not to clash with any number of these on one day. Perhaps the way forward is a series of smaller Christmas events, such as the planned wine tasting and mini market [which didn't materialise this year], and the wreath making workshop. If a mini charitable Christmas market is an option, then this will require closer work and collaboration with the student body.
- The FTS collaborated with the new Cookery School to put on a 'Wine Tasting' and a 'Fish and Fizz' evening – despite being widely publicised, numbers were down in the week leading up to the events. The FTS should perhaps review the cost of these events and plan to subsidise any future events to reduce the ticket price, in the name of community building.
- The Prep Barn Dance in the spring term was held in the new assembly hall for the first time and was attended by around 65 people. The space was excellent, and we were very grateful to Sarah Patterson for allowing us to stage it in the new hall. It was the final barn dance to be held with Mr MacQuarrie as Deputy Head, and with Mrs MacQuarrie as the skilled caller, his band excelled itself once again. We are looking forward to having the MacQuarries and their band back again for the barn dance next year!
- The Prep Triathlon, organised by Laura Fawcett and her family, was another huge success and well attended, with at least 93 attendees. The enormous amount of work involved to organise it should be acknowledged, and we hope that it can continue to run. Constant, positive feedback was received from many parents of pupils and non-pupils, stating that the organisation was excellent, and they were all made to feel very welcome. It was suggested that Prep and TS teachers' children who do not attend the Prep could be invited.
- The final FTS event of the academic year at the Prep was the Summer Fete. This was well attended on a sunny but windy day. Some stalls were free of charge and we tried to reduce plastic prizes by giving stickers or sweets instead. It was a good day and thoroughly enjoyed. Many of the children seemed to miss the opportunity to spend some pennies, so consideration will be given to going back a more traditional approach next year
- The Truro School Sports Day cream tea and cake stall was beautifully decorated again this year. It was a very blustery day but was well attended by parents who are beginning to realise that, despite what their children may tell them, they are welcome to come along and support their children! Once again, our thanks go to all the parents who helped, but especially to Jose MacDonald and Vicky Hatcher for setting up, decorating, coordinating and running the tea stall.
- The Summer Ball was the last event of the academic year and was a Black and White Midsummer themed ball. It was led by the FTS and a team of U6 parents, along with Jo Shaw, and the TS Events team. The sports hall was awash with beautiful, natural floral decorations and greenery, with a strong emphasis on recycling, nature and no plastic. Special thanks go to the team of parents who worked literally all day to decorate the hall with fresh greenery and to create table arrangements for individual tables – the result was stunning! The usual huge thanks go to Sven and his team for the lighting, dance floor and the dance floor décor; to Sarah Knowles and Lyndsay and to the Head of Catering who, once again, provided some delicious food. In addition, a big thank you to Carla Lamb for producing our first ball advertising banner for the snake.

START OF 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

The school year got off to a fantastic start as far as publicity for the FTS is concerned, with FTS Officers invited to welcome coffee mornings, along with an invitation to give a brief presentation on the role and purpose of the FTS at the Prep and the Truro School 1st and 2nd year welcome evenings.

The traditional cycle of autumn events continued:

- The Prep Quiz and Curry (which coincides with the Movie Night) was attended by over 90 parents this year and was held in the assembly hall for the first time.
- The Truro School Quiz and Curry (which coincides with the Junior Disco) was packed this year with over 100 attendees. The curry was fantastic!

Both quiz nights took place earlier in the term, as it was felt that this would work better with parents new to the school being given a chance to meet other parents in an informal setting early on. However, this did mean that the world aims students who usually help at the quiz at the senior school were unable to attend, as the group had not been chosen.

- The Christmas Pudding making event at the Prep grows year on year and was attended by around 35 people. Many thanks go to Catherine Wood, who single-handedly bought and prepped all the ingredients, and to Sue Mac for the loan of her kitchen and equipment.

TRURO PREP CLASS REPS

- The Class Reps at the Prep continue to be active with Laura Fawcett as the new Class Rep coordinator at the Prep.
- It should be acknowledged that the Prep Class Reps continue to give up lots of their time to make sure that events happen, especially the Christmas Fair and Summer Fete.
- The regular coffee mornings continue to be held for parents every Friday at the Prep, which helps newcomers to the school to become part of the community

AIMS and ACHIEVEMENTS

Developing community

- The welcome events at the schools have helped put us once again at the heart of the school community, and we are very grateful to have had this stage for the first time.
- At Truro School, the FTS continues to forge links with the Cookery School and the TS café as well as using the new sixth form facility for events such as the wreath making. Prep Class Reps have also held coffees at the café for Prep School parents, thereby helping to build bridges between the parent body at the two sites.
- Communication with the parent body has been improved with Carla Lamb assisting us greatly in our advertising and our bulletin entries, as well as a swanky new FTS leaflet!
- The use of Eventbrite to sell tickets has simplified accounting and ticket sales in advance of events and is a great platform for advertising events on the school website and Facebook and, in general, has helped greatly to simplify FTS events management.
- The Facebook Year Group Parents pages have now been streamlined and have the same look and are still play a vital part in helping the school community to gel and for advertising events.

It has been another busy year but none of these events could have happened without the help of many - the Class Reps at the Prep, many members of staff across the two schools and, of course, the FTS team (current and welcoming the new). Without the extremely hard work of the FTS Officers and everyone on the Committee, none of the above could have happened. We are an ever growing, ever more enthusiastic and dedicated FTS team.

Finally, I would like to thank Andrew [Gordon-Brown] at his final FTS AGM as Head of Truro School, for his support, for lending an ear to everything we had to say and for progressing the current shape of the FTS team.

Laura Rundle
FTS Chair
21st November 2019