

Date: 24 January 2016

FCGS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 02 FEBRUARY 2016

Chairman's Report

1. This has been another successful year for FCGS with another record breaking sum of money raised at both the Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar. We are maturing as a Friends organisation and we will continue to seek out new parent membership to support our activities. The Financial Report will be provided separately, however, we can be very proud of the funds raised to date and this year will see our first Financial plan which will formally set out our aims for generating funds as well as our expected expenditure for 2016. It also lays out our strategy for how the school can best utilise the funds raised to support the pupils' development.
2. It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Alan Rose, the School's business manager. He has been a tremendous supporter of FCGS and has covered off the responsibilities of the Treasurer. He has undertaken a lot of background work and set up numerous initiatives such as gift aid and the FCGS Easy Fundraising account which will greatly assist our ability to maximise our fundraising potential. He has continually supported our fundraising activities and his excellent contribution will be sadly missed; we at FCGS wish him all the best for the future.
3. Lisa Cook, as the parent ambassador, continues to effectively bridge the gap between parents and teachers and her hard work is paying off; she has also taken on the responsibility of Secretary for FCGS. Our core team of teachers and parents (too many to name individually) have worked very hard to organise, run, and generate the resources required to make the Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar a success; indeed, this year was the best yet.
4. We will continue in 2016 to meet the key objectives of FCGS which are as follows:
 - a) Developing effective relationships between staff, parents, guardians and others associated with the school.
 - b) Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance education of pupils.
5. Furthermore, 2016 will be more challenging than ever. This year will see the coming together of Chiltern Gate and Maplewood schools as a single entity to maximise resources for the benefit of all. We will need to decide how FCGS will adapt to this new structure and I will hold a meeting in March 2016 to focus directly on this subject. Prior to this, discussions between the school's Senior Leadership Team and the FCGS committee will need to take place to understand what options are available in order to decide on an appropriate course of action at the meeting in March.
6. We will also need to develop more innovative ways to increase awareness of FCGS, improve the number of donations received and maximise our fundraising potential. Such ideas include utilising the School's webpage to enhance visibility of FCGS activity, produce literature about FCGS to improve publicity and help canvas potential businesses to support FCGS.
7. In conclusion, it has yet again been a very successful year. The members of FCGS can be very proud of their achievements and their hard work has paid off. This upcoming year will be more challenging than ever; however, we will need to adapt and make sure that we embrace the merger of Chiltern Gate and Maplewood schools and set up a Friends group that can effectively support the two locations. To do this, we need to expand the Friends group and encourage more members to join us and help us provide the best support we can to the school and its pupils.

Regards,

Gareth Davies
Chairman of FCGS