

SPEECH 2016

Good evening Headmistress, Governors, Ms Lodrick, Teachers and I'm not sure I can say girls anymore but rather "young ladies". I find it hard to believe that this is my last Awards day after having been at the school for over 10 years and even harder to believe that these beautiful, confident young ladies sat here were once the little diddy dots crying when their big year six girls were leaving and now its your turn! I am sure there will be many broken hearted little girls next week you leave!

So my last speech and my last week at The Granville. I just hope my last week isn't as eventful as my first week when I managed to crash into and write off the former headmistress' car whilst parking on our infamous drive. Perhaps Mrs Scott I will stay off the drive this week!!

Now I must give the report of what FOG has been up to during this very busy year. I will be brief as I know the girl are itching to get their hands on their prizes but it is important to thank everyone who has helped.

As I hope you all know by now, FOG isn't just about raising money for the nice little extras around the school – although this year we have funded some fantastic new play equipment called a Trim Trail which will go on the field, but it is about bringing the parents and children together to have fun so we all feel that we belong to the Granville Family. One thing I have been delighted about this year is that many new parents have got involved and volunteered.

Our first event of the year is always the Headmistress' drinks. This is such a lovely way to start the academic year and thanks goes to Anna Jansen and Ros Edge who followed Louise Talbot's meticulous notes to ensure there was plenty of wine and nibbles.

We tried a new event for the junior girls in October. The Junior School Movie Night. It was a great success with lots of very excited girls in their onesies watching the movie "Annie". I am not sure any of the team organizing it could bear to hear the song "The Sun Will Come out Tomorrow" again in a hurry. Thanks to Cath Daniell, the year 6 helpers and all the Mums (and a Dad) who helped. It was such a success that it will become an annual event.

We also tried something new at Christmas. An evening Fair with Prosecco, Christmas music and many stalls selling gorgeous Christmas gifts. Its was a fantastic idea and expertly run by Illona Hunt and her team. Despite having to compete with several other events in Sevenoaks that evening, everyone who came really enjoyed it, the stall holders were delighted and we raised over £2000. Thank you Illona.

The reindeers returned this year for Secret Santa. I must really thank Carleen Kirk, Charlotte Kramer and Dionne Lessner for taking this event on for the first time after the legendary Sam Rodgers. Well, when I say Carleen took on the event, she happily volunteered but she then realized she was going to be in New Zealand. But she masterminded the event from afar and her trusty team of elves made the day magical. Thanks again to Tanya Cons and her team of mums who wrapped every last one of the carefully chosen gifts and to Mr McAvoy who played a very important secret role. It raised £916. Well done everybody.

Another part of FOG's Christmas is the Christmas cards. A huge thank you must go to Penny Hughes and Mrs Dorey who again

(for the 7th year) negotiated the challenges of producing the cards. The Children are always very proud of their creations and we also raised £477. Thanks so much Penny.

Another new initiative this year (I told you we had been busy) was the Granville Bags for life. Who knew getting over 200 children to draw a picture of themselves and all the teachers on a piece of paper 5cm squared would be so tricky. Well it was!!! Well done Amy Smith and Tatinana Lancaster, I know the hours you spent on this project. The bags are great and so far have raised over £200. There are still some in the school shop if any of you missed out. (I promised Amy I would give them a plug)

With such a short spring term there was hardly a moment to draw breath before the Fete was upon us in May. Cath Daniell and Anna Jansen kindly headed up the team again. It was a wonderful day and the sun shone (I think that was actually the last day we have had without rain). Thank you to all the Reps, Dads, Grandparents and old girls that helped on the day to make it such a success and particularly our new treasurer Emma Dowell, who sat all day in the office calmly counting the money. We raised over £7,000. Well done everyone.

Our next event was the ball.... What can I say? Despite giving Mrs Seymour, Mr Whiting and the ball committee a few grey hairs. It was a fantastic evening. The weather was kind to us and I think the field has just about survived. We had over 220 parents attend which is a record for Granville. We were delighted that so many parents wanted to come. We didn't want to turn anyone away and so had to make a swift change of venue to accommodate everyone. Despite being a little in the red when we started the evening, we managed to raise nearly £7,000 which is an amazing achievement (thank you for your generosity). Judging by the packed dance floor and evidence from the photo booth (oh yes they gave us a master set of photos)- everyone managed to have a great deal of fun too. Including my husband – thank you Ash for your slightly unconventional comparing of the head and tails game!

A huge thank you again to Cath Daniell and Anna Jansen who (now being experts in event management) headed up the ball Committee. Also thanks to the decorating team Monica, Anna Silva, Ronnie and Lindsay – the marquee looked beautiful, Sue Labrum for expertly sorting out ticket sales and menu choices

and Charlotte Kramer for arranging the beautiful diamond necklace raffle.

The Final FOG event of the year is the School Disco. The girls all loved it particularly the pick and mix and nail bar. Thanks to the year 4 and 5 Mums who organized it. Especially Vikki, Julia, Ronnie, Monica and Carleen.

As Mrs Scott has already mentioned Sandy Hansen and Sarah Annandale are also retiring this year after 7 years in the school shop. Thank you ladies the shop is really a bustling business with over £5,000 of takings this year. I am delighted to announce that Gisela Slowinski and Liz Stoppard will be taking over

Another two ladies that I couldn't have managed without are Mrs McAvoy and Miss Chittenden in the office. They deal with my endless questions, emails and phone calls with good humor – even my very late additions to the newsletter! There is one person that I haven't mentioned yet but has been such an enormous help to FOG for every event and that is the amazing Mr Whiting. Nothing is too much trouble, putting up gazebos, taking down gazebos, stringing up lights, repairing the field,

staying to lock up the school and always with a smile on his face. Thank you Mr Whiting we could not do the events without you.

Finally, my thank yous to the committee. To all the Reps – I know how hard you work it really is appreciated, To Sarah Metcalfe who has been a calm, collected and very efficient secretary for 2 years (we didn't forget a licence Sarah!), Emma Dowell who has expertly taken over the role as treasure this year, even though she is relatively new to the school and Cath – you are amazing – thank you for all your help as Head of Events this year and I wish you every success as the incoming Chair – I know you will be brilliant! I've been involved with FOG in one way or another since I started at the school. I have made some life long friends, my girls have loved it and, apart from the odd sleepless night, had a great deal of fun. Do continue to volunteer and support Cath and Anna Jansen who is taking over as Head of Events next year.

In total we have raised nearly £20,000 this year which is brilliant - thank you for all your support. Other than funding the Trim Trail, the money is being held for the new hall project.

It is exciting time for the Granville, I am sad that I won't be here to see it. Thank you everyone!!