

Good evening Headmistress, Miss Ferro, Governors, Teachers, Parents and Granville girls

My task this evening, as Chair of the Friends of the Granville, is to report on what FOG has been up to this year, as well as delivering a few well-deserved thank yous..in a short but sweet fashion.

As many of you may know, there has been an entirely new FOG Committee this year- Genevieve Heselden as Secretary, Bing Henderson as Treasurer, JD O'Brien as Events Co-Ordinator and myself as chair.

I think it's fair to say that it has been a baptism of fire- all of us are relatively new to the school, three of us are working mums, and we also have a dad on the Committee. Obviously everyone knows that girls are SO much better at pretty much everything, but other than that there's no real reason why FOG *should* be an all female affair. So if there are any dads here who would like to get stuck in next year, please just let us know. We are a very friendly committee and certainly open to new blood, fresh ideas and scheduling meetings around work commitments.

FOG's first event of the year was the Headmistress Drinks party, organised this year by Anna Jobke and Liz Stopford, with help from the Year 3 parents. As ever, it was a great night, and please look out for invitations for the upcoming drinks this September which should be going out at the end of term. This year it will of course also serve as a welcome social for the new headmistress, Mrs Lawrance., so it would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

In Autumn we also had the Junior Movie Night- organised by Claire Barker, Emma Dowell and Lucy Anderson, from Year 2. It was the first hurdle experienced by JD in his role as Events Co-Ordinator, when he realised that it didn't mean he got to pick the movie. The movie was Moana, the girls had a fantastic time and the night raised £269.

Christmas is a lovely time at the Granville and once again Ymkje Vlutters and Mrs Dorey did a fantastic job of co-ordinating the Christmas cards projects, raising £538. We also had the Granville Christmas puddings again this year, and they raised £136.

Secret Santa was manned by Carleen Kirk and Claudia Blandford, and Santa was assisted by some prosecco loving elves in the form of the year 6 mums. We had our first instance of FOG versus disastrous weather, when the school was closed in the run up to the event due to heavy snow, but we had an amazing recovery, it was incredible to watch the next generation of savvy shoppers and we managed to raise £1163.

Come spring we launched ticket sales for the Summer Ball- FOG versus disastrous weather conditions struck again and despite it being March, the Beast from the East put a spanner in the works when the school was closed on the day leaflets were due to be delivered home in book bags as part of the "big launch". But we think we have made a good recovery and JD and I have high hopes that the Ball (which is this Saturday) will be not only a great party but also provide an additional boost to FOG's coffers before the end of the year.

The Founder's Day Fete was the third (and I really hope) the last instalment in FOG versus the weather. The reps, the kids, FOG- we all had our stalls and contributions planned to the nth degree, we had Mr Whiting, Mr Ringmo and JD, as the muscle, up at dawn assembling gazebos..it all seemed to be going to plan..but we couldn't have bargained on the pretty much

relentless rain. But- despite it all- we were delighted to still make approximately £6100 and I have to say, the spirit displayed by parents and kids alike was really something else. I mean, it still was pretty annoying that every day after that seemed to be blue skies and relentless sunshine, but I won't complain too much because I'm Irish, superstitious and we have the Ball on Saturday.

Finally we have had a cluster of events in the last week or so- the Senior Disco, Junior Sports Day and Senior Sports Day. We will report back next term on those- together with any amounts we raise at the Ball.

In terms of what FOG has been doing with funds this year, we have committed funds to the purchase of games for reception, outdoor kit for the girls, a bass xylophone, a new camera for French, some Ipad apps and the house trips which are scheduled for the girls on Friday. With the plans for the new hall on hold, we are in the market for a "big" FOG project- any inspired ideas, please let us know.

Finally- I'd like to say a massive thank you to:  
Mr Whiting  
Mr Ringmo  
Annabelle and Barbara in the office  
Mrs Scott and Mrs Van- for their patience and support  
Fellow committee members Genevieve, Bing and JD  
all the reps and parents who helped with the events this year  
to everyone who has put their hand in their pocket to support FOG  
and last but not least,  
to all you Granville girls:

You Granville girls are the reason why FOG exists and why it matters- this year has been a steep learning curve for the committee, it hasn't always been easy, but genuinely you guys make it all worthwhile- whether it's being such troopers and still persevering to get unicorn hair or have a run on the bungee run in the rain at the Fete or watching how kind you are to the little ones at Junior Sports Day- as a Granville parent and a parent of little children here, I can't tell you how much of an impression you make on the little ones and what a good example you set. I think it's fantastic and it makes me proud to be able to help your Granville experience in whatever small way that FOG does.

Anyway, I said I'd keep this short and sweet. For those of you coming to the Ball on Saturday, don't forget to bring your glitter, your game and your cheque book!

Polly O'Brien  
Chair of FOG 2017-2018