

Friends of South Wilts Grammar School

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the Friends of South Wilts, I'd like to wish you well as we start another school year.

FOSWGS is a registered charity. Our aims are

- 1) to help to create a positive, inclusive school community
- 2) to fundraise for the extras that enhance the education of our girls.

We aim to provide closer links between home and school and to bring staff, parents and friends together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It is a great way to socialise with other parents, many of whom will become lifelong friends.

Your involvement is crucial to our success in achieving our objectives. The more parents help, the more we can create a genuine sense of community and the more likely we are to raise money for the school.

As parents, you are all automatically members of FOSWGS.

We have a healthy list of volunteers who commit some of their time and skills to helping and we look forward to welcoming more of you in the coming year. Every little helps, so even one evening a year assisting is appreciated.

How you can get involved

Offering to help at events is really valuable. It doesn't matter if you can't commit to helping on a regular basis or even if you can't come into school. There are lots of ways you can help us from home if you can spare a little time. Our Treasurer and 1000 club administrators both do their jobs without coming to FOSWGS meetings.

You may have social media skills, publishing expertise, or be a spreadsheet supremo. We will welcome your help with open arms. Alternatively, you may like to bake cakes for our Christmas fair, or perhaps you would like to have a stall at the fair. Maybe you are employed by or run a business that can help us, for example, a disco, marquee supplier, lighting business. Or you might be willing to donate raffle prizes or promises for our auction.

You can help us by letting us know if you have any contacts and skills we could use. Everything is potentially valuable to us. If you would like to be more involved, you can attend our committee meetings which are held every term to give us your ideas, ask questions and voice your opinions.

Company matched giving

Company matched giving is very simple. Many companies have schemes where they pledge to donate to charity the same amount of money that has been raised by their

employee. We have been helped enormously in the past by this type of donation which can often double the amount we raise from a given event. If you think your employer has a matched giving scheme, and you might consider us as your chosen charity, please get in touch.

How we raise money

Like most PTAs, our funds are raised through events we run. Last year we raised around £15,000.

Events included

- Year 7/8 discos
- Christmas fair
- Christmas and spring raffles
- Burns night party
- Multicultural food festival
- Second hand book stalls
- 1000 club

We also help the school by serving drinks at parents' evenings and concerts and we run a Leavers' ball as a non-fundraising event to give the girls a chance to say goodbye to their school years in style.

How we spend the money we raise

All subject departments are encouraged to come up with items they would like. These requests are approved by the school senior leadership team before being suggested to FOSWGS. We fund a huge variety of smaller items as well as larger projects. In the recent past, we contributed £30,000 towards the fit out of the new food technology suite. Other items funded include:

- A set of drums for the music department
- Competition kit for the football team
- An all weather shelter for sports teams to use at competitions
- Outdoor table tennis tables
- Easels for the art department
- Robotics kit for computer science lessons and coding club.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you now know a little more about FOSWGS. If you have any questions, please contact me using Classlist or email me at foswgs@swgs.wilts.sch.uk And please complete the enclosed helper form.

Sally Walden (FOSWGS Chair)