

Outlined below are the main Friends Association activities of recent years. They illustrate the breadth of support offered to the school and parents, and also how the work has been successfully shared amongst an ever growing number of parents.

Annual Raffle Organised by committee with a team of volunteers.

Autumn Term Family Quiz Rounds are written by a team. Catering by the school caterers and bar organised and run by other parents.

Baking Karen Hurley coordinates volunteer bakers by email. Cakes have been made for the Summer Showcase to raise funds for the Expressive Arts Faculty and to support the pupils' Charity Committee fund-raising days.

Fund-raising events Run by a sub-committee formed to organise the event. A Promise Auction was held in 2013, raising over £6,000 to pay for giant IT screens. In previous years the FA has funded the purchase of a new PA system, equipment for catering studies and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, sports team strips, support for the school's events at the Literary Festival and most recently funding for WriteOnline - a software package to support the development of pupils' literacy skills.

Heartstart Free two-hour emergency life-saving skills training. Cara Hopgood, who is a trainer, runs the sessions once a term and recruits other trainers to teach the skills.

Parent workshops Free sessions for parents. Four have been run so far at the weekends, looking at communication with teenagers, Emotional Intelligence, how their brains work and how to support their studies/revision. This year we have been able to offer free childcare. Workshops are organised by Kirstie Pope and Sarah Pierrepont, supported by Elin Sommer. We would like to develop the programme using ideas from parents who have attended workshops.

Pre-used uniform This is managed by Sarah Browne from home.

Support at school events Serving refreshments at Summer Showcase, Annual Governors report to parents, school productions. A varied group of parents help out at events. Usually school provides and sets up refreshments for the Friends to serve.

We try to have a presence on evenings when parents, both current and prospective, are invited into school, but only if people are available and willing!

The coordination of much of this is done at the FA meetings held once every half-term, and by email in between.

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