

TSA Chairpersons Report 2021/22

Our role

To help raise additional money for our lovely school.

Our objectives

- Provide a variety of events, across the academic year, for the benefit of all children/families within our school
- Maximise the potential income that can be achieved for each event held by the TSA
- Donate funds to at least one activity, that is organised by the school during school hours, for the benefit of the whole school
- Donate 10% of our annual profit to a dedicated Hardship Fund, to be accessed at the discretion of the Headteacher for families at our school considered in significant need

How we spend our funds

We decide how we will spend our funds in a variety of ways. We are very lucky that Mrs Mort, the Headteacher, attends all of our TSA meetings. This means that she is able to bring to our attention any areas within the school where funds may be required. As a committee we will then vote on whether we can support the highlighted areas and what level of funding we are able to provide.

In addition, towards the end of the financial year we will ask the school for a 'Wishlist' of items from each year group that are needed in order to enrich the childrens learning. We then discuss and vote upon how we can help.

If there is a specific project that the school, or children at the school, would like us to contribute towards, this is tabled at our monthly meeting and voted upon accordingly.

2021/22 Review

The TSA has had an absolutely fantastic year. It got off to a bit of a rocky start, with a Christmas Fair that was on, then only partly on, due to COVID restrictions, and then a scaled back version for the immediate school family. But that put us in good stead for a year that ended with bumper funds in the bank, a series of successful events under our belts, and the crowning glory - becoming registered as a Charity.

Last year, we introduced the concept of Pop-Up Stalls in the yard straight from school. This type of event proved popular with the wider school family, but perhaps not for the local dentist! It also involved less time for TSA volunteers. Our first one was a Firework Treat Theme, with S'mores bags, sweet cones and neon snap sticks. Other Pop-Ups followed including: Christmas Treats, Valentines Treats, Mothers Days Gift bags and Bouquet Collection, Father's Day Gifts and a Red, White and Blue Platinum Jubilee Themed stall.

Two clothes collections were organised, in November and April. The November collection proved the more successful of the two.

December saw a Wreathmaking workshop, run by a local florist who provided all equipment and guidance on the evening. A visit from the man himself in a Supper with Santa event, which while not proving hugely profitable, was absolutely loved by the children, families and our very own naughty elf! We also had our school Christmas Fair which went back to basics, with a small selection of stalls run by the TSA. The event was held straight from school and had a wonderful festive vibe.

Chocolate and fun were had by all that attended the Easter Bingo evening, a big thank you to Rose Weaver for being our caller.

For the first time this year the TSA donated to each of the children a white t-shirt for them to take home and decorate in support of World Book Day. The children's imaginations ran wild culminating in some amazing ensembles.

Cake and Skate was a new, and rather hair-raising concept that we trialled. We were due to hold two across both Key Stages, however it was decided to concentrate on the younger children. The event was loved by the children and made a comfortable profit, this event was held straight from school, which maximised attendance.

For the first time in two years, we were able to hold our Summer Fete, which was held straight after Sports Day. An auction of promises was the main fundraising element of the gathering, raising a whopping £1,882, which was only possible due to the generosity of our school family. A big thank you to all those companies and families that supported this event with a donation, not least the provision of an auctioneer.

To support the fabulous KS2 Peter Pan performance, we organised a bar during the interval for the two performances, which provided drinks, snacks and a further boost to our funds.

This year we funded a Tilston School Bear for each new child joining our school family, along with one for each of our year 6 leavers, together with a memorable photo book. We had fun providing a BBQ for the leavers party, with the added excitement of a visit from Dottie the ice cream van. A big thank you to Adele for popping along, and also a massive thank you for providing ice cream to the whole school at the summer street party. We would also like to thank Lindsey Kidd, from HM Legal for hosting our leavers, prior to their special service at Chester Cathedral, for a wonderful lunch.

In addition to events held at school, we continue to bolster our coffers, through income from the School Lottery and Easy fundraising schemes. As well as a donation from the Netball Team, that uses the school yard and from second-hand uniform sales, which wouldn't be possible without the support of Claire Allwood.

All financial details are in our Treasurer's Report, which follows.

Team Changes

We have had a couple of new additions to our team, over the past year which is great, but as always, we need more. If you can spare an hour a month, have some fundraising ideas or just want to see what we do please pop along to a meeting and join us, details are in the weekly school newsletter.

This year we have said goodbye to Martin Shaw, our Treasurer, who has done a sterling job over the past few years. A big thank you to Martin and his family. Kirsty Edgington has stepped up to the plate to fill Martin's position and we know our finances are in safe and steady hands. Our current Secretary, the livelier than life, Muriel Burch will be stepping down, a massive thank you to Muriel, for all her hard work and support. A big thank you must also go to Andrew, Muriel's husband for the financial support the committee has received through kind donations from their company AEB Ltd. Luckily, we don't lose Muriel's expertise completely as she will continue to support us as much as she can over the next year. It does mean we have a vacancy for a Secretary, that needs filling. If you would be interested then please let us know.

I too am stepping down from the role of Chair, which has been amazing. I will continue to support the team as Vice Chair as we continue to drive forward our fundraising efforts.

Thanks

It sounds like a cliché, but there really are too many people to thank. A big thank you to the school and the teachers for helping us in our endeavours, and their much-valued guidance through some of our riskier ideas! A great big thank you to all the families and children at our school for always so generously supporting us with donations and attendance at our events. A big thank you to businesses in the local community, who have dug deep and always managed to find some way in which to support us, even when things times have been difficult.

My huge thanks to our wonderful team, everybody brings something to the table, everybody chips in and you are always open to ideas, even if mine are a little crazy at times. You have been a tower of support not just in my role as Chair. I have made some true friends and some fantastic memories; I have also learnt a great deal. Thank you, you all rock!

Lastly, a big thank you to my beautiful boys, who are always on hand to help with some TSA escapade. And my long suffering marvellous Markle, who is just the best, most supportive partner ever.

Kelly Allnutt, Chair Tilston School Association October 2022