



Friends of  
Brentwood School

# FRIENDS FORUM

Summer 2024 | A year of the Friends



We are a dedicated group of parent and teacher volunteers who organise social and fundraising events throughout Brentwood School. While many of our activities focus on fundraising, they also serve as a fantastic way for parents to meet and connect with one another, building a strong community beyond the school gates.

# Meet our Trustees

## *Shermeena Rabbi, Chair*

*elected January 2024*

Shermeena Rabbi is an accomplished social entrepreneur, founder, and Clinical Director of Unlocking Language, a leading independent speech and language therapy service. With a background in child development and business leadership, Shermeena brings valuable skills to her role as Chair of Friends at Brentwood School.

Her expertise in strategic planning, building relationships and brand development makes her the perfect fit for this role. Her passion is fostering a collaborative, engaging environment where parents can actively participate in supporting the school community. Shermeena's vision is to enhance parental involvement and ensure that Friends remains an essential part of school life, benefiting students and families alike.

## *Lesa Bennett-Plane, Secretary*

*elected January 2024*

Lesa co-founded Olivia Burton, a globally renowned watch and accessories brand. Her strong communication skills, organisational abilities, and attention to detail make her an ideal choice for the role of Secretary of Friends.

Lesa is deeply committed to making Friends a thriving, inclusive community that supports both the academic and emotional needs of our children. Her vision focuses on creating a collaborative environment where parents can come together, contribute ideas, and build a stronger community for the benefit of all students.







**Zoe Speckter, Treasurer**  
*re-elected January 2024*

Zoe has served as Treasurer of Friends for several years, playing a key role in building a strong community through her leadership and dedication. She has been instrumental in organising major events such as the annual Christmas Fayre, the Mother's Day gift sale, and the Nearly New Uniform Sale, which has provided invaluable support to many families.

Zoe has also excelled in fostering a team of committed volunteers, acting as a crucial link between parents and teachers to strengthen our school community.

Together, we work closely with Mr Bond and Mrs Goodfellow, holding termly meetings to plan events and initiatives. We also collaborate with the Prep Operations team to ensure smooth communication and event organisation.

We are always supported by a wider team of volunteers, and any parent or teacher is welcome to get involved in any capacity!

If you're interested in becoming part of the team, let us know.

## Our Team Structure

The Friends of Brentwood School is strategically led by three trustees. They are supported by a dedicated core committee:

**Alicia Stewart, Communications Officer & Annual Ball Organiser**

**Christine Kidd-Fullerton, Assistant Treasurer & Annual Ball Organiser**

**Mani Lakshminarashimhan, IT Officer**

**Paul Ngugi, Communications Support & Marketing**

**Nidhi Drubhara, Legal Officer**

**Emily Laura Inman, Accountant**

**Stacey Mamelok, Fundraiser**

**Victoria Caccavale, Annual Quiz & Year 6 Events Organiser**

**Email  
us here**

# Fundraising Updates

Thank you for your incredible support in our fundraising efforts. Every contribution directly benefits our pupils, enhancing their experiences at Brentwood School. Here's a breakdown of what the funds have helped achieve over the last year:

**£2,000**

Class of 2024  
keepsake Yearbooks  
for Year 6 pupils

**£700**

participation  
medals for Prep  
House Cross  
Country runners

**£20,000**

Sports Shelter in  
memory of Aaron B,  
a Year 5 pupil

**£10,000**

toward the Water  
Garden at the  
Senior School

**£1,100**

Brentwood School  
teddies for NewB  
Prep children

**£750**

Pencil case gifts for  
Year 2 pupils moving  
to Year 3

**Whiskerd  
Cup**

donated to honour  
retired Prep Head,  
Mr Whiskerd for  
General Knowledge.









# Recent Activities

We've had a busy and productive year organising a variety of events. Here are some highlights:



## Dare to be D

A fun day in February with creative accessories and a school uniform that raised £



## Quiz Night

A well-attended event compered by Mr Bond and Mr Whiskerd, raising **£401.55**



## Mothering Sunday Sale

A sale in the Prep School to celebrating Mothering Sunday, a huge success, raising **£1957.07**



## Pr S

Aft  
sale  
cont



## Christmas D

Our annual Christmas dinner was a hit year after year, with a lunch raising **£841.12**

## Different Day

...y at the Prep with  
...s in addition to their  
...£1245.42



## Annual Ball

Our annual Ball is always full of glitz and glam, for all friends and family of Brentwood School, raising **£2024.98**



## Year 6 Celebration Event

A joyful send-off for Year 6, featuring sumo suits and bronco rides and raised **£159**

## Pre-Loved Uniform Sales

...er extending the Pre-Loved Uniform  
...e for Prep and Senior School, they  
...inue to be popular, raising **£11,986.31**



## Christmas Fayre

This annual event is a sure-fire way to get us all in the spirit, hosted at the Prep, raising **£3815.30**

## Lunch

...s Lunch is always a  
...ith the most recent



## Bicester Village Trip

A trip on a coach for a day of shopping is always a lovely way to get in the Christmas mood, raising **£385.66**



# Forthcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming events:

**25**  
September

## Meet the Friends

Drinks reception at 6.30pm in the Water Garden at the Senior School

**12**  
October

## Annual Ball

Inviting all friends and family of Brentwood School to Warly Golf Club for this annual event

**All**  
Year

## Pre-Loved Uniform Sales

15th October | 16th January | 27th March | 12th May

Hosted at the Prep School from 9.30am – 11am

**22**  
November

## Bicester Shopping Trip

Get a head start on your Christmas shopping with our annual shopping day to Oxford

**23**  
November

## Christmas Fayre

Join us for a large dose of Christmas cheer at the Prep School for our annual fayre – all invited!









# We're Rebranding

This summer, the Friends of Brentwood School have been discussing a rebrand. With the help from Liz and Holly, part of the Marketing team at Brentwood School, a new logo and new colours are on the cards.

With the growth of the committee, we're very excited for this next chapter and look forward to being able to launch this with the wider community.

Part of our rebranding was to solidify our four core values and recreate a mission statement that best reflects us and the aims that we work towards.



*Our community is built on the values of caring, compassion and the children. We aim to unite parents in a shared vision for growth and development. By ensuring active participation in decisions that reflect the best interests of every*

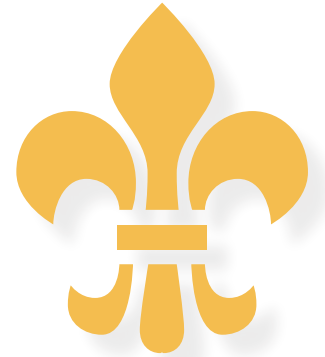
## **1** Caring and Compassion

We are committed to fostering a culture of caring and compassion among parents, pupils and teaching staff. We want every child to feel valued, and every parent to feel heard, recognising that our collective efforts are essential to the growth and success of our children. This core value means that we, as parents, support one another by actively listening, offering help, and creating a space where every family feels valued and respected. Our collective empathy strengthens our community, ensuring that together, we can better advocate for the wellbeing of our children.

## **2** Community

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*Compassion, and community, both for the parents  
a collaborative effort to support our children's  
parental involvement, we are committed to making  
child, nurturing them to reach their full potential.*



### **3 Parental Engagement**

Parental engagement highlights the active involvement of parents in the academic and extracurricular life of the school. It signifies that parents are essential partners in the education and development of their children. This value encourages open communication, collaboration between parents and teachers, and consistent parental participation in school activities, decision-making processes, and advocacy for their children's educational needs. Empowering families to advocate for what benefits all children, now and for the future.

### **4 Best Interest of the Children**

Cultivating an environment that promotes holistic growth, safety, and success for every child, ensuring their future potential is fully supported and nurtured. We are committed to ensuring that every decision, initiative, and action we take is centered on what serves the best interests of our children. This value means prioritising each child's overall wellbeing – socially, emotionally, and academically – by creating opportunities that foster growth, safety, and success.

# Our thanks to you

On behalf of the entire school community, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Christine Fullerton, who has served as both Chair and Secretary of Friends over the years. Her tireless dedication and leadership have been instrumental in shaping the success of Friends and ensuring its ongoing growth. Christine has played a pivotal role in organising key fundraising events and fostering a welcoming atmosphere for new volunteers. Under her guidance, Friends has become a vital part of our school community, supporting countless initiatives that directly benefit our children.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Alicia Stewart, who has served as a Trustee and Communications Officer for Friends. Over the years, Alicia has been an integral part of our team, managing everything from social media to newsletters and email communications with skill and dedication. Her commitment to keeping the school community informed and engaged has been invaluable. Alicia's creativity and attention to detail have ensured that our events, updates, and fundraising efforts reached parents effectively, helping us build a stronger and more connected community.

Though Alicia and Christine have stepped down as Trustees, their contributions have left a lasting mark on Friends, and we are incredibly grateful for all they have done. We look forward to working alongside you as we continue to build on the foundation you have helped create.



*... thank you!*



# Join Us and Make a Difference with Friends!

We are always looking for enthusiastic parents to get involved with Friends and help us continue building a strong, supportive community for our children. Whether you can volunteer for just a few hours at an event, attend our half-term committee meetings, or even take the lead on organising an event, every bit of help makes a huge difference!

There are many ways to contribute and be a part of this vibrant group, including:

## **Volunteering at Events**

Whether it's selling tickets, setting up, or lending a hand during one of our fundraising activities, even an hour or two of your time can have a big impact.

## **Attending Committee Meetings**

Join our half-term meetings to share ideas, give feedback, and be part of the conversation that shapes our events and initiatives. We value fresh perspectives and welcome new voices!

## **Generating New Ideas**

Have a creative idea for a new event or a fun way to raise funds? We'd love to hear it! Friends is all about collaboration, and your ideas can help us strengthen our community and create memorable experiences for the students.

## **Taking the Lead on an Event**

Are you passionate about a particular activity or event? We're always looking for parents who are willing to take charge and help run events – whether it's organising a quiz night, a school fair, or any other exciting activity.

Whatever your availability, skills, or interests, there is a role for everyone. Your involvement—no matter how big or small—ensures that Friends continues to thrive, providing fun, meaningful experiences for our children and making a positive impact across the entire school community.

By joining Friends, you'll also have the opportunity to meet other parents, form new friendships, and contribute to a rewarding cause that directly benefits your children and their peers. It's a wonderful way to be more connected to the school and make a lasting difference.

If you're keen to get involved or want to learn more, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to any of our committee members, or drop us an email at [friendsofbrentwoodschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbrentwoodschool@gmail.com). Your time, ideas, and enthusiasm are what keep Friends running successfully, and we can't wait to work together to make Brentwood School an even better place for our pupils.

Let's make a difference—together!

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