**FoM November Newsletter 2019**

**Parent Power :**

Over the past year, the current FoM committee have been blown away by the generosity of some of our parents, and what an amazing network of contacts we have at The Mead. One of The Mead’s strongest assets is its community, and we feel that there are so many ways we can help each other.

If we look at the support we have had for some of our recent events – particularly Meadfest and The Starlight Ball – we have some amazing local, independent businesses owned by Mead parents step forward. From Maddison’s Residential (estate agents) on the pantiles, to FJR Studio (architect) on Warwick Park and Sleepy Wilson also on the Pantiles (luxury sleepwear). None of our events could happen without these sponsors, and we really encourage you to look on our website under the Sponsorship section, and in turn support their businesses in return if you ever require services in their field.

In addition, we have so many parents come forward with prizes and lots for raffles and auctions. A special mention goes to Jenny James at 360 Private Travel in Sevenoaks (jenny@360privatetracel.com) who donated two amazing lots for our auction, Fred Finan who generously donated the Washington Apartment for a weeks stay, Ayme and Darryl Flay for donating a 4 ball and their Courcevel Chalet, Sian Haines for the Lucy Claw artwork, Tammy James for the Mount Edgcumbe, Tamasin Absolom for getting Handelsbanken to sponsor and giving us memorabilia golf balls for the auction and Nathan Kent for the Goodwood VIP tickets.

Last but not least, thanks to the Ball sub committee for all your hard work in getting this most recent event organised – Ayme Flay, Nicky Roche, Tamasin Absolom, Sian Haines, Clare Curran, Claire Chattenton and Emma Moss.

Without all of the above happening, these events wouldn’t exist. We have already had interest from other parents for our Summer event Meadfest next year, and if anyone else is interested in sponsoring or donating prizes for our raffle, please contact us on FOM@themeadschool.co.uk. As well as having a fab time at these events, we raise funds to help enhance all our children’s education, and as you will see further on in the newsletter, they really get put to good use. Thank you!

**Library :**

**Where the funds go? :**

**Easyfundraising :**

For those who don’t know, there’s a great website called easyfundraising, through which you can effortlessly help raise money for Friends of The Mead whenever you’re shopping online with over 3,600 major retailers, such as Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Argos, NEXT, [Booking.com](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/rQuuCRo4qSr7Q9KC9YAPg?domain=booking.com) and many more.

The way it works is that the retailers make a small donation to say thank you and easyfundraising gives those funds to charity - in our case, FOM.

Please register using this unique link:
[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fomeadsch/?invite=GW8OGK&amp;referral-campaign=s2s](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/eO2nCVP8xslOXr4SzdMJi?domain=easyfundraising.org.uk)

Then just search for 'Friends of The Mead School - Tunbridge Wells' and click ‘support us’

As an added bonus, once you’ve signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will then give FOM an extra £5.

There’s no catch or hidden charges and FOM will be really grateful for your donations.

A few of us have been doing it for a few months now and it really is as easy as it sounds. Once you’ve registered and are shopping online with one of the participating companies, you’ll be prompted to click on a link to access the normal retailer’s site through the easy fundraising portal, and that really is all there is to it. You also get a monthly summary of what you’ve raised.

Even if we all just do it every-time we’re ordering something from Amazon (which in our house is at least a daily occurrence) it will make a big difference.

Thanks for looking!

**Matched Funding :**

We have recently been alerted to another initiative that we can use to help increase our funding for FoM. Matched funding is a scheme that over a hundred companies have signed up to. If you work for one of the companies detailed on the photo, and volunteer an hour or so of your time to help on a FoM event then that could double the funds raised.

For example, if you volunteered to help run the bar at Movie Night and Parents drinks, and that took £500, then your company would then match that money and give us a further £500. This is a very simple way to get free money for doing very little.

If anyone does work for one of these listed companies, and is willing to help out at future events, then please contact FOM@themeadschool.co.uk so that we can ensure we are raising as much money as possible. Thanks in advance.