



Issue 24 - December 2020
Welcome to the December 2020 CSPA Newsletter containing topics you will find in more detail at Cranbrookschoolparents.com

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Fond farewell to headmaster John Weeds

Following eight eventful years, Dr Weeds will hang up his headmaster's cloak for the last time at the end of this term. But the CSPA couldn't let him disappear without saying our own goodbye and thank you for his steadfast support during a tenure which has seen Cranbrook School's unforgettable Quincentenary celebrations, a royal visit,



brand new Sixth Form Centre and the admission of Y7 and Y8 students. Dr Weeds was also a driving force behind the colourful timeline and storyboard panel, which was funded by the CSPA, and runs along the corridors of the maths block. So, at last month's executive committee meeting, CSPA chair Henrietta King presented him with John Lewis vouchers in recognition of his sterling efforts. Enjoy spending them Dr Weeds!



More than anything else, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown how important it is to pull together as a school community, which makes the work of the CSPA more crucial than ever.

But we can't do this without you – our parents.

The departure of long-term committee stalwarts last summer left us with big gaps to fill, so we want to hear from anyone who can offer ongoing commitment or ad hoc help. **Specifically, we urgently need a volunteer who can write our termly newsletter.** With more CSPA heavyweights due to depart next summer, it's vital we attract a new crop of volunteers because without them the CSPA cannot function. If you can help in any way, please [contact CSPA chair Henrietta King](#)

[Contact to Join the CSPA](#)

Sweet taste of success



Here's a festive tippie with plenty of ap-peel – and an ideal way to contribute to school funds.

Snap up bottles of **Cranbrook School's very own apple juice**, organised and produced through the tireless efforts of CSPA committee member **Emma Dear**. She was helped in the fruitful task of picking and transporting by an enthusiastic team of parents whose efforts resulted in more than 900 bottles of juice (200 of which have already been sold, thanks to fantastic demand from parents). Big thank-yous all round to Hannah Miles-Watson, who let us harvest her lovely orchard; Y13 student Flora Roberts for designing the colourful labels; and parent Emma Jordan who printed them. **This year's vintage can be bought online or from the Second Hand Uniform shop between 3-3.30pm on Fridays from the start of next term and The Bell & Jorrock's Pub in Frittenden during the school holidays.** [See website for more details.](#)

[Press to Shop](#)

CSPA's gift of giving



The CSPA brought seasonal cheer to school staff this week with boxes of yuletide goodies as our Merry Christmas gift from parents. This crowned a productive few months following the installation of two new Astro huts, one next to the main Astro pitch and the other alongside the netball and tennis courts on Scott Field, to provide welcome shelter for devoted parents and helpers supporting school sports teams.

The CSPA has also funded new furniture for students' use in outside play areas, organised by vice-chair **Helen Stevens**. Additionally, it has paid for enhanced wifi access with 30 extra access points around the school, a new art display screen, and ongoing funding of the annual short story competition prize.

Take a seat . . .

. . . because there are still chairs in the Queen's Hall Theatre waiting to be sponsored. The cost is **£45** for each chair, which will carry a plaque with your child's name, helping to leave a lasting legacy. More than 40 chairs already have plaques, but these are being upgraded to match newer better-quality versions sourced by **Helen Stevens**. Our target is 100 new chairs, so we still have a little way to go. Anyone interested in sponsoring one should go [through the link on the CSPA website](#).



[Sponsor a Chair](#)

Turn your Xmas spending into a school gift

with The Giving Machine



with Amazon Smile



You shop. Amazon gives.

Calling all Christmas shoppers . . . let your festive shopping become a seasonal boost for Cranbrook School by using [The Giving Machine](#) and [Amazon Smile](#).

It's an easy way to raise money at the click of a button, whether you're stocking up on Xmas treats or splashing out on festive gifts, as a percentage will automatically be donated to the CSPA. Simply register with the sites and submit **Cranbrook School Parents' Association** as your chosen charity. It's even easier if you download the Shop&Give app which automatically ensures donations are made.

All details are on the website.

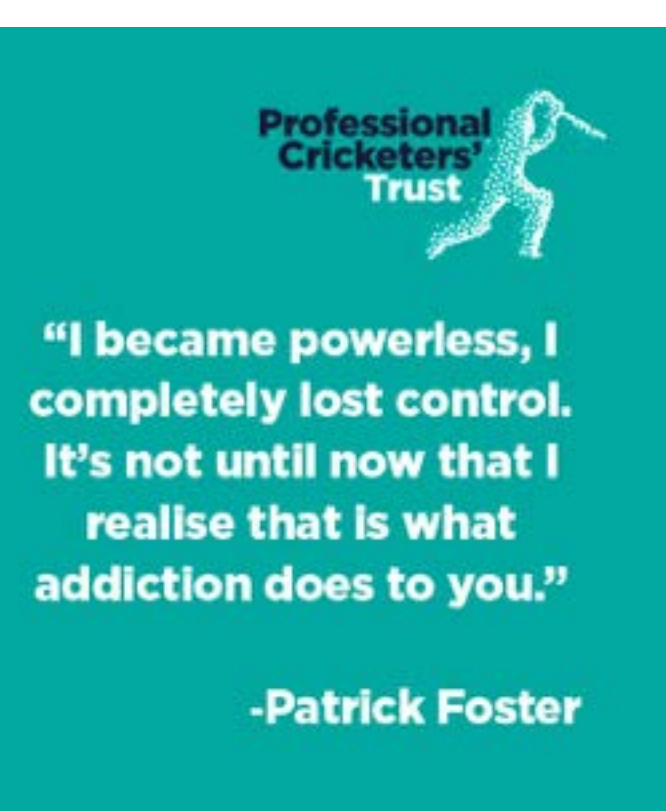
Remember our Second-Hand Uniform Shop

So it's good riddance to 2020, but if you're having an end-of-year clear-out don't forget to donate unwanted items to the **CSPA's Second-Hand School Uniform Shop**, now located in the Coach House next to Cornwallis House and run by our dedicated team of volunteers. Alternatively, if you need to pick up uniform items, don't forget to use our online appointment system, which has been working well and can be accessed via our website, along with shop opening times.



[Take me to the shop!](#)

The perils of gambling addiction



The heartfelt agony of reformed gambling addict **Patrick Foster** was laid bare in a gripping talk to Sixth Formers last month that reduced some students to tears. In a devastatingly frank account, the former professional cricketer and teacher detailed how a pathological addiction to gambling and online gaming ripped his life apart, driving him to the brink of suicide.

Having since turned his life around, Patrick described his path to recovery and warned students against the dangers of being sucked into the same destructive spiral. His powerful testimony was one of the most captivating school talks the CSPA has organised and our thanks go to committee member **Georgina Roberts** for making it happen.

STOP PRESS: Getting social

The pandemic has played havoc with our social events, with the latest casualty being our Burn's Night Supper, the high point of our calendar. While next month's event has been cancelled, we are determined to bring parents together however we can – **so watch this space.**

[Contact and Join](#)

