

**Present** Kirstie Pope; Karen Hurley; Kate Dennant; Robin Gable; Lucy Gable; Tilly Ashton; Sarah Pierrepont; Stuart McLester; Esther Lacey; Cara Hopgood; Mike Powell; Kate Davies; Nicola Davies.

**Apologies** Victoria Hughes; Jaz Hurley.

Kirstie welcomed everybody to the AGM, gave a brief overview of the last AGM and the minutes were approved.

### **The Chair's Annual Report**

The MCS Friends Association held its Founding AGM on 10 March 2010. The organisation provides a valuable link between home and school, and aims to make a real difference for every student not only by raising funds, but also by harnessing members' enthusiasm, skills and experience to create opportunities for students and give support to parents.

The Treasurer's report will detail fundraising achievements and items of expenditure, so I will mention these in brief whilst doing a round-up of the year.

A Spring raffle raised funds which have been used to support the Literary festival organised jointly by pupils from MCS and Monmouth Boys and Girls schools. Thank you to George Waterstone for organising this and saying she'll do the next one too.

The annual bake fest for the Summer Showcase went very well and once again raised funds for the Faculty of Expressive Arts. In July the Headmaster spoke warmly about the Friends to parents at the New Entrants' evening helping to raise our profile.

The 'Heroes and Villains' Quiz and Curry held in October was very well attended and fulfilled its aim to welcome new families and bring them together with the rest of the school community for a fun evening. Special thanks to Karen Hurley and the team in the kitchen that night, and to Sarah and Marcus Pierrepont who provided a truly memorable round dancing, dressed as Catwoman and King Kong. It's going to be a hard act to follow.

Cara Hopgood had the idea of starting Heartstart classes for parents and children at the school. What a brilliant idea – so far 40 people have received free emergency First aid training. Sessions are held once a term. Thank you, Cara for your enthusiasm and time. Parents have also volunteered to become trainers for the scheme.

Early on in 2015 we enjoyed supporting the school's production of Sweeney Todd by serving refreshments ably helped by a band of sixth formers. It was a little chilly in the marquee, so extra layers provided by Victorian outfits were much appreciated. Thanks to Debbie Arnett who helped every night and was a brilliant organiser.

Throughout the year Sarah Browne has managed the donations and sale of second hand uniform from her home and this has been extremely successful. We have baked cakes for the Charity Committee's bake sales to support their enthusiastic and impressive fundraising.

More parents have signed up with Easyfundraising to earn donations for the FA whilst shopping over the internet. These funds have paid for free Parent workshops 'Understanding the Teenage Brain' and 'EQ'. Over the two years they have been attended by about 100 parents. Thank you to Jessie Paterson and Frances Green for running these. Special thanks to Puddleducks Nursery in Raglan which has provided free childcare for parents at workshops in 2015. Thanks also to Mr Davies, Mrs Gardiner and Mr Williams for their support in setting these up.



## **Nomination/Election of Officers & Committee Posts**

All the current Officers are standing down this year.

Esther Lacey volunteered to become Treasurer. She was proposed by Kirstie and seconded by Kate Dennant.

Kirstie has agreed to stand as Secretary to ensure continuity for the FA this year. Kate Dennant proposed her and Karen seconded.

In the absence of a volunteer to take on the role of Chair, the FA will operate by rotating Chairs. At each meeting a Chair will be decided upon for the next meeting. This person will then lead the FA business until that next meeting, following up action points raised in the meeting just gone and liaising with the committee. It was felt by those present that this was a good temporary measure allowing different parents to lead the FA business as it continues the excellent initiatives begun this year, such as Heartstart and the Workshops. **Tilly to draft a letter to Parents outlining how this arrangement will work.**

The following were proposed as Committee members by Kirstie and seconded by Stuart:-

Robin Gable, Tilly Ashton, Sarah Pierrepont, Cara Hopgood, Kate Davies and Nicola Davies.

Kirstie Pope, Esther Lacey, Kate Davies and Robin Gable are to be signatories for the Bank Account.

Kate Dennant has volunteered to help plan and carry out more focussed liaison with parents to encourage them to become more involved with the FA.

**AOB** Jaz Hurley sent a letter of thanks from Miss Feldon and the Charity Committee for all the support the FA has given this year especially on Non-uniform & Bake Sale days. These events have consistently raised over £1000 each time for various charities.

The AGM was closed.