

Monmouth Comprehensive School Friends Association
AGM
Wednesday 24th May 2017
Riverside Hotel, Monmouth

Attendance:

Kirstie Pope	Esther Lacey	Deborah Morgan
Sally Chilton	Mike Chilton	Victoria Hughes
Debbie George	Kay Rook	Harriet Mulvaney
Jill Edwards	Sarah Lawson	Leanne James
Nik Ramage	Claire Gibbard	Fiona McColgan
Rachael Daniels	Helen Johnson	Cara Hopgood

Apologies:

Martina McGrath	Paula Doody	Karen Hurley
Vivien Kear	Tilly Ashton	Heather Morgan
Alison Ivin		

Welcome:

All welcomed and thanked for attendance by Kirstie

Financial Report:

Report of audited accounts provided by Esther up to year end 9th March 2017. See appendix.

Chairs Report:

Chair's Annual report 2017

The MCS Friends Association turned 7 years old this year. 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.

2015's Summer iPadDraw raised funds to help school purchase WriteOnline software to support literacy in school. 2016's draw and other funds helped to pay for Talk the Talk workshops undertaken by year 10 to build their confidence and speaking and presentation skills in preparation for elements of the new GCSE English Language qualification. As well, we helped to fund the purchase of 'reader pens'. The Joint Council for Qualifications currently allow students who use reader pens as their normal way of working to make use of them in examinations assessing their ability to read (i.e. English GCSE). Students who have good comprehension skills, but for whom decoding whilst reading is a barrier, will have better opportunities to fulfil their potential. The Friends is very proud to be able to provide much needed support at a time when budgets are severely constrained.

The Music Quiz and Curry 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. School kitchen staff prepared and served the curry. Thanks to Shane for all his hard work helping to make the evening such a success.

Again this year Cara Hopgood has organised Heartstart classes for parents, children and the Rowing Club at school. Well over 100 have received free emergency First Aid training. Thank you, Cara for your enthusiasm and time, and for your commitment to ensuring the scheme continues

Also continuing from last year Sarah Browne has managed the donations and sale of second hand uniform from her home and this has been extremely successful. The uniform is changing - compulsory for years 7 & 11 in September 2017, and for everyone else when the new school opens in September 2018. We will continue to stock and sell larger sizes of the current uniform until summer next year.

We have baked cakes for the Charity Committee's bake sales to support their enthusiastic and impressive fundraising as well as for the school's annual Summer Showcase - thank you, Karen, for coordinating the bakers.

More parents have signed up with Easyfundraising and Easysearch to earn donations for the FA whilst shopping and browsing over the internet. Thank you to Fiona for coordinating and promoting this with parents - she has made a real impact raising funds and helping the Friends to engage with parents.

Looking ahead to next year and the new school, the Friends ready to provide support in any way we can, but to be effective more parents have to be willing to take an active role in helping to organise and run different activities. This term the Friends have been invited to attend some of the meetings with year 6 parents which we hope will help to raise awareness as well as provide support to parents as they transition to MCS.

Friends' Officers have met with the Headmaster during the year to discuss FA matters. My thanks go to him for his time and support, and also to Andy Williams. The school's admin team have continued to support the Friends - thank you to Claire, Jane, Charlotte, Wendy, Eirwen and Jayne on Reception. The Friends are also supported by the Governors, who this year supported the Friends' decision to set up a Facebook page. As soon as we have the necessary resources in place this will be launched.

Last, but definitely not least - the Committee: I want to thank Cara Hopgood for taking minutes throughout the year, and Esther for being a great Treasurer. Kate for updating the Gmail contacts and helpers database. Thank you everyone who has regularly attended meetings and volunteered to help doing all manner of different tasks for the Friends - my very sincere thanks.

Points raised

Write-on-Line - Some parents expressed interest and it was suggested they contact school to discuss.

Future Fundraising – App available [MILK] The App allows the school to preload homework onto devices and schedule its release to students. It will also notify parents of when homework is set, what it is and when it is due in by. Homework can be uploaded by the teacher with all the guidance and explanation to help students and parents. The school can also monitor amounts and time taken to complete homework.

General agreement gained to support funding of this though some concerns raised around staff time required to upload the information. Raffle profits to go towards this cost.

Quiz – Very successful last year and plans for another quiz this year with a milder curry!

Heartstart – Has been a successful year. Next course arranged for 3rd June. Nearly fully booked

2nd Hand Uniform – Well utilized and very much appreciated by parents. Will continue until new uniform in place, the will need to be a slight pause to low for stock to develop. Request to go out for old uniform donations.

Charity Committee – Friends are very happy to be able to support the fundraising efforts of the students by providing baked goods. Any 'Bakers' not on Karens list invited to make contact if they wish to help out with donations of cakes etc.

Easy Fundraising/Easy search – Valuable contribution to fundraising. All encouraged to sign up.

Year 6 Meetings – Friends have been invited to attend 2 meetings at primary schools and 2 future meetings at MCS

Facebook – Aim to have a site in the future. Some experiences from other schools shared. Positive feedback given about current methods of communication especially e-mails

Kirstie went on to thank all at school who support MCS Friends Association and everyone who has supported in all any way over the past year.

Nominations and Election of New Committee:

Chair:	Kirstie Pope	Nominated: Cara Hopgood Seconded: Esther Lacey
Minutes Secretary:	Cara Hopgood	Nominated: Kirstie Pope Seconded: Esther Lacey
Secretary:	Heather Mulvaney	Nominated: Kirstie Pope Seconded: Esther Lacey
Treasurer:	Esther Lacey	Nominated: Cara Hopgood Seconded: Fiona McColgan

A.O.B.

MILK app cost aprox. £1-2000 with some probable ongoing cost, need to clarify

Raffle – Tickets have gone out to years 11 and 13
Rest of school to go out after half term

Volunteers for filling envelopes for raffle Harriet Mulvaney, Colin Spaven, Victoria Hughes and Debbie George

Fundraising idea shared by Leanne James – school lottery, no set up costs information on line

Meeting Closed

Appendix: Financial Accounts

Income and Expenditure Account for Year 10th March 2016 to 9th March 2017									
Income			Expenditure			Loss	Profit		
Cash Book balance 10 March 2016	£	1,792.63							
Quiz Night 15	£	41.92	Quiz Night 15	£	368.97	£	327.05		
Quiz Night 16	£	1,317.50	Quiz Night 16	£	782.55			£	534.95
Summer Raffle	£	1,314.00	Summer Raffle	£	481.29			£	832.71
2nd Hand Uniform	£	519.00	2nd Hand Uniform	£	-			£	519.00
Easy Fundraising	£	221.26	Easy Fundraising	£	-			£	221.26
Waitrose Tokens	£	398.00	Waitrose Tokens	£	-			£	398.00
Other Fundraising	£	57.00	Other Fundraising	£	-			£	57.00
			PTA Fee	£	113.00	£	113.00		
			Admin Costs	£	51.18	£	51.18		
			Gifts	£	24.00	£	24.00		
			School donations	£	2,300.00	£	2,300.00		
			Workshops	£	50.00	£	50.00		
Floats	£	-	Floats	£	-				
			Cash Book Balance 09 March 2017	£	1,490.32				
								£	2,538.18
								£	2,562.92
		£	5,661.31		£	5,661.31			