

MCS Friends Association Meeting 15th September 2015

Present Kate Allott; Tilly Ashton; Sarah Browne; Robin Gable; Cara Hopgood; Karen Hurley; Esther Lacey; Fiona McColgan; Martina McGrath; Sarah Pierrpoint; Kirstie Pope; Mike Powell; Corrina Purdy-Baker; Shane Wallace; Alison Ivin

Apologies Kate Davies; Claire Nuttall; Georgina Waterstone

All were welcomed and introduced themselves to the meeting as there were a number of new faces

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Talk to parents at Tutors at Home and ask those willing to help to fill in New Entrant's Evening slip, rather than sending slip home. A session will be run to familiarise parents with FH level 2 with the school kitchen so they can support at events if needed eg. school production. Quiz organisation under way, most rounds written, Kirstie liaising with school about food to establish cost so tickets can start to be sold.

Esther presented the financial report. After outstanding items, funds stand at £4,407.72. After ring fenced items (Easyfundraising £455.32 & Literature Festival Donation) and £200 from sale of pre-used uniform brought to the meeting, available funds are £2,452.40. The meeting agreed to give the school £1,900 towards the cost WriteOnline. **Esther to write cheque to school for £1,700 + £1,900 = £3,600.** It was agreed going forward that funds of £500 should be maintained to meet requests from school and Friends' costs.

Raffle raised significantly more this year than in last two. First prize of iPad generated interest. Use similar 1st prize next summer. Future meetings to discuss what funds raised this year should go towards.

Alison mentioned advantage of communicating to parents/students reasons for fundraising and, for a big project, using a tool such as a target thermometer to keep people informed and engaged

Business

- **Mr Davies spoke to meeting**

Welcomed all, especially newcomers. Mentioned ways in which Friends adds value to school.

- Funds to pay for WriteOnline software to support literacy
- Activities to benefit every student so every student succeeds
- Workshops very important, supporting parenting (which can be isolating)
- Request for members of FA to support the school in appraising the use and effectiveness of systems and practices, such as looking at the website and the accessibility of information contained within student school reports.
- Training for WriteOnline will start in September and will cascade through school community.

- **Calendar 2015/16**

- Went through events on calendar to raise awareness of the breadth of activities the Friends get involved with and/or organise.
- **Corrina and Cara offered to meet and greet parents at the School's Open Evening on 24th September.**
- **Fiona offered to look at Easyfundraising and find ways of encouraging more parents to sign up. Shane will look at how local businesses can sign up to Easyfundraising to help raise funds for the school.** Also suggested a discount scheme where parents hold a card which will allow them to get discounts at local businesses which support the scheme.
- Parents new to the school said they would have appreciated being made aware of the availability of pre-used uniform prior to their children starting year 7.
- It would be good to have a team to help George organise the raffle at the end of the year.
- **Cara will liaise with school to book date for next Heartstart session.**

- **Quiz**

- Meeting agreed that it was a good investment to pay Churchill staff to serve and clear up in the kitchen on quiz night; parents who have regularly helped in the kitchen would be free to enjoy taking part and help out front/ chat to parents to raise awareness of, and support for, the Friends. As well as being fun for all, the evening has been organised to welcome new families to the school. So whilst it is an opportunity to meet new parents and find out if they would like to get involved with their FA, this should be done without making parents feel pressurised.
- **Kirstie will email request for help with setting up and running the evening.**
- **Mike Powell will organise PA system for evening.**

- **.AOB**

- Time had run out at this point, but the meeting was asked if minutes were published/circulated, whether there was an email group for the meeting attendees to develop discussions from the meeting, and finally could school come up with a 'shopping list' of things school needed that the FA can review - it might be a way of increasing FA profile to involve parents/pupils in selection process so that as many as possible 'buy in'.
- First meeting of year needs more time/cover less material.

- **Next meeting**

Venue TBC

Tuesday November 10th

Susequent note: Shane has booked the function room at the Three Horseshoes in Monmouth. A different location will allow the meeting to carry on for longer if required. The facility is suitable for children who are accompanying us.