

Attendance: Tilly Ashton, Cara Hopgood, Sarah Pierrepont, Fiona McColgan, Claire Nuttall, Esther Lacey, Shane Wallace, Georgina Waterstone,

Apologies - Kate Allott, Robin Gable, Kirstie Pope, Mike Powell, Karen Hurley, Corrina Purdy-Baker, Vivien Keer

- **Welcome and introduction**

- **Approval of minutes of last meeting and matter arising** - approved. SP to meet with Mr Davies 5th February (with Kirstie). The new build project not yet at a stage to identify wish list for MCFA fundraising, though canopy still a possibility. Green token scheme now running in Waitrose - thanks to Shane for organising this. Social eve for the Friends - perhaps at the beginning of a term e.g. Summer term coming.
- **Financial report** - little to report since the last meeting. £626.21 available currently. Two large transactions out - Literacy Festival and Write Online. PTA membership and outstanding balance for quiz night also paid.
- **Raffle** - Monmouth's Rotary Club are running a scheme for local charities, providing raffle tickets and prizes. Charities keep income from ticket sales. However, the Friends would still be responsible for distribution of tickets and collection/reconciliation of monies. **Although a generous offer, it was felt that the Friends would continue with the established process.** Georgina will need a group of volunteers to take on her role. Shane offered prize donations (golf round, cosmetic set and manuka honey packs). Fiona volunteered to contact prizewinners. Volunteers recruited at year 7 Tutors at Home have offered to help with the raffle process. Need early ticket printing and distribution for stuffing in envelopes (after March meeting). 2000 books required. Approx. £400. Ask Robin to organise printing again. Marcus P and Shane to look for printing contact for next year as this is Robin's last year of involvement. Check we can sell tickets at Summer Showcase. Photo opportunity.
- **Parent workshop March 2016 - all moving along.**
- **Heartstart** - running very successfully for 2 years but the main organiser, Andrew, is no longer able to fulfil his full role. We now need a new medically trained individual in order to conform with the British Heart Foundation's criteria for Heartstart. Marcus P. may be able to take on this role - SP to check.. British Heart Foundation also has a new scheme that purely covers CPR and is DVD-taught - no qualified instructor required - 30 minutes training but no extras. It was felt that this alternative would be far less favourable and we will endeavor to carry on with the existing scheme. KP to discuss CPR option with Mr Davies to see if it could be used in school.
- **Calendar 2015/16 Easter newsletter** - Draft in February - advertise raffle. **March workshop. Year 7 parents evening** - 23rd March. Need volunteers if Friends want to be present. Tily, Cara, Georgina may be able to help. **Bake sale** - 18th March - Ask Karen to coordinate via email.
- **Easyfundraising** up by 30 members. Fiona has done another poem to advertise the holiday scheme for Twitter/email. Setting the search page to easyfundraising through our page brings in on average £25 per computer per year.
- **School Council visit to Aberdare Community School** on Wednesday 27th January. New school opened in September. Similar size to the new MCS build. The Friends have been invited to send a representative. Tilly will try and attend (and will liase with KP).
- **Write Online update** - Feedback from Tim Bird - All TAs have now been trained and are using WriteOnline in mainstream lessons with individuals (specific learning difficulties and moderate learning difficulties particularly). Writeonline is also being piloted by a range of teachers in a number of faculties. Using this package seems to be increasing the level of motivation to complete written tasks and the depth and detail in writing has improved. 'Workspace' in particular has supported planning, and its importance in determining the quality of the final document. For students with specific learning difficulties (dyslexia), the accuracy and coherency of writing is much improved.
- **New Chair** - Kirstie will take on the 'rotational' chair role for the next meeting. The Friends needs a permanent chair in place and should resend out information about the role (in time for the AGM). Need to develop a directory of all the contacts/emails so that a rotational chair can easily contact people when necessary. Mobile numbers for all active Friends would be great too.
- **AOB** - Georgina mentioned the recent safe guarding and consent training for Governors & could this be extended to others? KP will discuss this with Mr Davies in February. Tilly mentioned issues/concerns about body image in young people. SP to ask about this in the up-and-coming self-esteem work shops.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 9th March 6.30 pm, Function room, Three Horseshoes Pub