

MCS Friends Association Minutes 10th February 2015

Present Kirstie Pope; Karen Hurley; Nicola Davies; Robin Gable; Kate Davies; Cara Hopgood; Sarah Pierrepont; Stuart McLester; Esther Lacey; Mike Powell; Jaz Hurley.

Apologies Georgina Waterstone; Tilly Ashton.

Kirstie welcomed everybody to the meeting and recapped briefly on matters arising from the previous meeting.

Heartstart Cara and the Monmouth scheme co-ordinator delivered the training at the course on 7/2/15. 29 were trained and £80 was donated towards Heartstart. Very positive feedback received regarding the quality of the training. A number of attendees expressed interest in training to be Heartstart instructors which is needed to make the scheme sustainable. The meeting congratulated Cara on the success of the Heartstart scheme and all her hard work in setting it up. The next course will take place in the summer term.

Second-hand uniform **KP to ask Sarah Browne to send out reminder emails to Parents.**

Easyfundraising 73 have signed up and about £850 has been raised to-date. 'Refer A Friend' may be the way to increase support, especially as causes get £1 for every referral who signs up.

Sweeney Todd All the performances were excellent and hugely enjoyable. The FA volunteers enjoyed dressing up to serve refreshments and contributing to the atmosphere and fun.

Fashion Show Kirstie has spoken to Kate Dennant who has contacted the company she knew about (which provides a complete package), but it only works with Primary Schools. Will explore options, but need a specific goal to fundraise for.

Stuart outlined the latest news regarding the new school and the proposed timetable for demolition and construction. As it will be some years before the new school is completed, Robin suggested that the FA may prefer to fund trips to the theatre or to pay for speakers on literature, science etc. to come into school. The meeting agreed to offer funds to the student committee organising the Literature Festival. **KP to contact Andy Williams.** Suggested that we could hold events at the Blake Theatre if it comes under the joint schools umbrella. Sarah has a contact in The Usk Astronomical Society Astronomy, who has given fantastic talks to children of all ages. **SP to provide details to school if they are interested.**

Display Board Nicola had found a 3 panel display board for £110 which can be used in either landscape or portrait format. **KP to contact Louise Vitale regarding purchasing a board .**

Outdoor Space Liam Lacey told the meeting more about the outdoor finger board courses such as skate board parks which he mentioned at the last meeting. This is obviously a long-term project which will be dependent on the new school construction. Stuart felt that Spring/Summer 2017 will be the time to start planning the exterior school areas and it would be good if we could involve the DT students in the design/construction. Thanks to Liam for his research.

Financial Report Nicola reported that our finances have changed very little since the last meeting. The balance stands at £3,798.45.

Business

- **Parent Workshops** The Emotional Intelligence Workshop will take place on Saturday 14th March, 2.30-5.30. **Tea, coffee and cake to be offered as refreshments.** Puddleducks Nursery, Raglan are very supportive of our aim to provide free childcare for parents. Cost to FA will be about £7-8 per hour. **KP**

to send out the email regarding the workshop to Parents offering childcare so that we can gauge demand and organise accordingly. SP to contact Louise Vitale to organise a suitable room .

KP to contact Frances to ask her if she would like to present her workshop again in April/May. There is £430 left in the workshop budget and so Kirstie plans to offer £150 for each course.

Sarah has spoken to PC Cath regarding the self-harm/substance abuse workshop. She is very happy to address any subjects which parents have concerns about, including internet safety. Andy Williams has offered support facilitating and can provide information on how topics are covered in the Integrated curriculum. Oct/Nov may be a good time to run this workshop. The welcome quiz could then run as usual in the first half-term. KP may have found a parent to help administer the workshops.

Andy Williams plans to offer a Mindfulness Course to Parents after school on Wednesdays.

- **Forward Planning** The AGM will be held in May. There have been no volunteers to take over committee posts yet. **Tilly and Kirstie will draft an email to Parents.** Robin felt that we should be more active in our recruitment at school events. Stuart said the school is very grateful for everything that the FA achieves and wishes it to continue to grow.
- **AOB** We and school still do not make use of the skill set which parents have, largely because we have no database detailing parent skills. Kirstie suggested articles in newsletters/ The Learner showcasing how some parents already use their skills to help the school may prompt others to offer their services.
- **Date of the next meeting** **Tuesday 17th March 2015**