

AGM Chair's Report 2018/2019

What a brilliant year we have had, our association is 9 years old this year and our group has doubled in size with new volunteers joining us. Our committee and group are small and the extra support you have given us this year has made all the difference in ensuring we could spread the jobs around and tackle an extra event. You know who you all are, thank you!

Our year started in the old school with our very successful 2018 Summer Raffle which raised the last amount of funds needed to pay for the MILK App 2018/2019 plus some funds towards MILK 2019/2020.

With the move into the new building the dates from school for events were delayed this year and we only had a weeks notice before Tutors at Home. This and the fact that these meetings are held during the working week meant we struggled at the start of the school year to cover all these sessions with new parents to promote the Curry & Quiz Night, our meetings, the helper list, 2nd Hand Uniform and Easyfundraising. We managed to get to just under half of the sessions, the main result of this was that we had a massive drop in our Easyfundraising sign ups from an average of 30 down to 6.

Easyfundraising has nevertheless continued to tick over with thanks to Kirstie who this year took over from me sending out emails & tweets to promote free donations throughout the year. Going forwards next year we will need to find someone else to take over from Kirstie, running this mostly involves downloading flyers and inserting our details for emails and tweets.

Our popular Curry & Quiz Night and the additional Promise Auction & Dinner between them provided social events for all of our community to come along to, both were a great chance to socialise and enjoy the new school with us. These events raised funds but also brought our community together and were supported by various groups of students across the school who were all an invaluable part of each event. We are very pleased to be able to work with the

students when possible, they all showed themselves to be very capable and were a huge asset to The Friends this year.

Second Hand Uniform sales have been steady but down on previous years as we are still building up stocks of the new uniform. Thanks to Sarah for continuing to provide this service of good quality uniform at greatly reduced rates. Due to an increased variety of items & concerns about longevity, the way we do this next year may change.

As well as our own events we have baked for the charity committee bake sales and help serve the refreshments at the 2018 Summer Show Case and the 'Anything Goes' shows for the PEA Department.

This financial year we have paid for/raised funds for:

The last funds needed towards the MILK App 2018/2019

£1,500 to pay for The MILK App 2019/2020

£200 for transport to and from extracurricular activities and events

£5,750 towards a cover for an outdoor classroom

Plus funds from our planned 2019 Summer Raffle will go towards a £1,500 total we aim to raise for the PEA department who will use it to match fund a grant for equipment.

Now for the thanks bit... to the committee and group who have come to the meetings and/or helped us plan and run our events, we literally couldn't do it without you, thank you.

To our Officers, Kirstie and Esther for their continued support, with special thanks going to Cara & Miss Dawson who are stepping down today, Cara will be remaining as part of the group. Thank you both for all your time and effort it really is much appreciated! Miss Dawson, we wish you lots of luck with your move, you will be missed.

Thanks also to our fab group of helpers who jump in whenever we needed an extra pair of hands and to all those students who have been involved with us this year.

Not forgetting the support we have had from the school leadership, admin, buildings and finance teams and especially all the help you gave us in the run up to the auction, thank you.

I cannot thank The Friends enough for their support this year; it has been a pleasure to work with you all and I look forward to seeing what we can do together next year!

Fiona McColgan – MCS Friends Association Chair