**President’s Report for AFS Meeting, Wednesday 15th June 2022**

I repeat my thanks for the tireless work all of you do and even though I say the same thing each time (about how much we as a school appreciate it; it's not only the money, though of course that becomes more and more important every year, but far more than that it's the time and effort you put into the activities of the AFS and the community building) it still remains the undeniable truth.  Without the work you do, so much of what is so special at the school would be lost. For me it’s all about building the wider community, involving the full parent body, and giving everyone the chance to engage with the school in the way that they see fit.

New developments:

* Bright Futures Mural – design complete – room painted!
* Prom Access Fund
* Merchandise
* Arnold Clark - £1000

Future Events:

* Summer Soiree – 14th June
* Year 8 Parents Social – 28th June
* Quiz Night – 1st July
* Walk to Ukraine – 5th July
* Year 6 Parents – 5th July
* Sports Day – 13th July
* Entrance Test parking – 17th Sept

Thank you to all the members of the committee, and all of the parents who regularly give up their time to support our key events, and also to organise many of them.

For the benefit of anyone new to these meetings I thought I ought to list all the events and activities that the AFS have supported over the years: music, chess, Design and Technology, fencing, rugby, gardening, languages, maths, minibuses, staff room, sports leaders, swimming, tech team, Duke of Edinburgh and more.

Underpinning it all is our collective commitment to be a **caring and inclusive community where everyone can do and be their best**, and this statement is underpinned by key values centred on **Support**, **Resilience**, **Empowerment**, **Responsibility** and **Improvement**. I am optimistic that we can continue to strengthen a collective determination to live and breathe these values in everything we say and do.

Report

* All weather pitch: full application to the council for permission to build the new pitch is in. It will provide first class facilities for hockey training and matches, as well as other sports, and it will also provide an excellent additional recreation space for the students at lunch time and break time (as the “bog” is often closed for many of the winter months).
* Future plans: We’ve had the drawings in for the feasibility study for the new Camp Hill Community Hub which will hopefully include more changing room facilities, more dining space, and more toilets. The fundraising campaign feasibility study is in progress and we are working with Andrew Day from Gifted Philanthropy – several of you have given your time and energy to this already – thank you!
* Staffing: in response to what is being called “the great UK resignation” the school, led by Deputy Head Paul Bruten has responded magnificently and we are looking forward to being fully staffed in September – a feat that not schools have managed to achieve.
* Charity Committee: the student Charity Committee continue an ambitious plan.
  + Planned Charity Ideas with Dates (Chronological Order)
    - Culture Week - Week beginning the 27th June – including cultural themed cooking classes
    - Walk to Ukraine - Tuesday the 5th of July (contingency on Thursday the 7th of July)
    - Blindness Awareness - will be sometime in July
    - Remembering Srebrenica - organised by Mr Garrod and Ayman Azmi of Year 12; date is meant to be the week beginning the 11th of July
    - WIH Blood Donation - planned date is 30th August
  + Charity Ideas without Dates
    - Swimathon - with Mr O'Malley
    - Art Gallery
    - Charity Week 2023
    - Snowdon
* Trips: The Conway Centre residential for Y8 and Y10 was a fantastic success – my thanks to the scores of staff involved, all masterminded by Tim Watkins. The Battlefields trip for Y10 was also a huge success – thanks to Mr G Hill and the team.
* Admissions:
  + 6th Form admissions are going well.  The usual high calibre of applicant is knocking at our door and Mrs Bourne is holding CEIAG meetings with all prospective joiners including 60 external students.
  + Y7 admissions are in their third year of the new system. In the previous two years we have struggled to offer places to all of our “Pot 4” students, which means that there are a number of local boys (in catchment) who have met the “Priority Score” of 224 but fail to secure a place. The governors approved an offer of 150 places for Year 7 boys for September 2022 and we are delighted to have made offers to boys in all five Pots on March 1st.
* Exams: I don’t want to jinx it, but we are “enjoying” real exams this summer!
* Student Voice: I have conducted two rounds to tutor group visits this year where I ask the students two key questions: what is working well (and should be protected) and what could we do better. The quality, thoughtfulness and sensitivity of the feedback received has been exceptional, leading to enacted and planned improvements covering a wide spectrum from playground facilities, to food provision, from curriculum plans, to T&L strategy and effective revision techniques. It continues to be a joy to work with these young people.

So, as we look to the future, I offer you a vision where we develop an increasingly warm and welcoming community where we celebrate our diversity, and where all of us can lead fulfilling, happy and healthy lives. I look forward to further widening the breadth of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for all. And I hope that we can support every member of our community to achieve ambitious personal goals. But most of all, I want to celebrate the caring and inclusive community that we are, where everyone can do and be their best!

Russell Bowen

(June 2022)