**President’s Report for AFS AGM, Wednesday 21st June 2023**

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Friends of the School (AFS) at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys.

Those of you who have been involved in these meetings before will know that I say the same thing each and every time! Even though the message is the same, the sincerity is as powerful as ever when I say how much we as a school appreciate the work you do. 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 building of the Camp Hill community.  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, the students, the staff, the alumni, the governors and giving everyone the chance to engage with the school in the way that they see fit.

To underline what I have just said here is just a sample of what has been going on over the last couple of years.

* Year 7 Welcome Evening & Treasure Hunt
* AFS Web Pages totally refreshed and looking very professional
* Refreshments at Oliver production (4 events!)
* Iftar Dinner
* Committee Meetings
* Senior Concert refreshments
* Christmas Concert and Carol Service refreshments
* Bright Futures Mural – design complete – room painted!
* Prom Access Fund
* New school merchandise
* Arnold Clark - £1000 donation
* Summer Soiree – refreshments
* Year 8 Parents Social
* Quiz Night
* Relaunch of the Standing Order forms
* Walk to Ukraine – refreshments
* Year 6 Parents Social
* Sports Day – refreshments
* Entrance Test parking marshalling
* Pre-Loved Uniform Sales
* Art Cameras
* Prom funding support
* Chronicle
* Cricket Score Board
* One Man Two Guvnors
* Sports Samosas
* Spring Tea Time Concert
* Earth Week
* AFS Social Dinner
* Music folders
* Prize Giving Book Tokens
* Laptops donation

We look forward to the further AFS Committee Meetings, Charity events, Sports Day, CHAOS, Art Auction and the International Cultural Festival for 2024.

Thank you to all the members of the committee, and to 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

* New Governor: congratulations to Kevin for winning the recent election for our new Parent Governor!
* All weather pitch: we have secured planning permission and have received the tenders!
* Industrial action: we have now had six days of strikes. Needless to say it is a difficult decision for staff as we are conflicted between the necessity to lobby the government to fund education properly whilst still providing the best educational experience for our students.
* Fundraising: we are entering the asking phase of our capital fundraising project for the Camp Hill Community Hub (CHCH) and associated pitch, and have set up our Develop Office and a new Campaign Board has now had three meetings.
* Future plans: We’ve updated the drawings for the feasibility study for the new Camp Hill Community Hub (which will include more changing room facilities, more dining space, more classrooms and more toilets) in preparation for submission to BCC for planning approval.
* Charity Committee: In April we had Earth Week – a combo between Charity Committee, Student Council and the Eco Committee – well done to Miss Marsden for spearheading this important initiative.
* Trips: we have now had our Junior Rugby and Hockey Tours and more D of E expeditions. Well done also to all those involved in the sports tours, the Berlin trip and those who have just completed our first ski trip for 3 years. 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: all boys from Y11 have applied to join our Sixth Form, and approximately 60 offers to external students have been made
  + Y7 admissions are in their fourth year of the new system. In the previous three years we would have struggled to offer places to all of our “Pot 4” students, which means that there would be a number of local boys (in catchment) who have met the “Priority Score” of 224 but would fail to secure a place. The governors approved an offer of 150 places for Year 7 boys for September 2022 & 2023 and we are delighted to have made offers to boys in all five Pots on March 1st.
* Exams: we are well into exam season for Y11 and Y13. I would like to wish the best of luck to them all, even though I always tell them that they won’t need any luck because they have worked so hard to get here.
* Student Voice: I have conducted more tutor group visits this term 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.
* Pre-loved uniform: We continue to promote two important ideals through our pre-loved uniform offering. Firstly, we believe that school uniform should be affordable, and giving families this option will reduce costs. Our pre-loved uniform is offered at no charge, however families are welcome to make a donation to the AFS if they wish (there is no expectation or pressure applied). Secondly, we promote the ecological benefits of recycling by saving unwanted uniform from landfill and offering it a new lease of life with a new owner. All our pre-loved uniform is quality checked to ensure that it is clean and still in good condition. This is an important new project initiated and run entirely by the AFS – thank you!

R W Bowen MA NPQH

(June 2023)