

Friends of Askes College Society PTA (Hatcham) (Years 7 to 13)
Minutes of Emergency General Meeting
Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 7pm

Online Meeting – via zoom

Present (virtually):

Liz Dekker (Co-chair), Alison Jopp (Co-chair), Naomi Davis (minutes), Pauline Anderson, Dekha, Eric Bateren, Candy Engel, Nicola Smith, Nathaniel Tyron, Sam Mathews, Serap Kalu, Ben Robb, Rebekah Brown

Welcome from Liz. AGM has been postponed due to pandemic, hoping to hold in person in Spring. It would have been the Winter Fair this Saturday!

Pauline is stepping down from Treasurer role – 6 years as a member of the Friends and 4 year as treasurer. She has been amazing, always willing to help out including her role as Mrs Santa at the Winter Fair! Huge thank you for everything you have done – we are going to miss you!

Agenda:

Outgoing Treasurer's report- Pauline

Fundraising 2019/20:

We had great hopes for 2019/20. The first half of the year we had was really good. We supported events such as teas/coffees at open mornings as well as the main fundraising activities which raised £3,111.93:

- Quiz night
- Winter Fair – raised half of the total year's income around £1,600 (£350 from Estate agent boards)
- Winter concert

Spend:

We brought forward £7,732.47.

We have Invested in equipment for future events: card reader, hot plate, cups.

Some donations have been made to the school: £738 - £425 hire St Catherine's hall, subsidised Year 13 hoodies £300 (been a tough year for them, so happy to support this gesture), Arts Dept £13.

Fundraising 2020/21:

We raised £465 from uniform sale, so in October 2020 Friends have £9,407.25 in bank. Two cheques still need to be cashed which will leave us with £8,862.25.

Big thanks to people who have supported fundraising events with energy and enthusiasm – much work behind the scenes, big thank you to them.

There has been difficulty with setting up digital banking – hoping new treasurer Ben will take this forward.

Pressing committee appointments, Vice-chair and Treasurer

Liz presented the new roles that need to be filled on the committee:

Ben Robb has agreed to be treasurer.

Nominated by Liz Dekker and seconded by Alison Jopp – **elected**.

Nobody has put themselves forward to be Co-Chair, so Alison Jopp will stay on the committee as vice-chair until the AGM.

Nominated by Liz Dekker and seconded by Naomi Davis – **elected**.

Supporting the school through the Friends group needs to be a collective effort – we need more people on the core committee. Liz has put a call out on the WhatsApp group.

Please do email if you have any questions or would like to be more involved:

Friends.asks@gmail.com

Online banking

Liz proposed that Friends of Aske's apply for Business Internet Banking at HSBC and confirmed that this is permitted within our rules. Seconded by Alison.

Office holders need to be named on the minutes to be able to access online banking.

The main signatories for the bank need to be changed too – Pauline suggested having four. For the moment until there is another co-chair there will be three: Ben Robb (John Benjamin Robb), Liz Dekker (Elizabeth Dekker), Naomi Davis.

Forum topics for January meeting

Liz asked people what topics people would like to have for the January Parents' Forum meeting:

Mental health –

This was been raised in the past as a topic. There was a suggestion in the discussion that the school need to communicate more about what they are doing to support student mental wellbeing, especially in light of the pandemic. Have teachers/staff received training? **Yes, YoungMinds and external company carried out a training session with all staff for 90 minutes. We continue to invest in the leadership of pastoral care as the College has two new leaders (Director of Inclusion and Senior Teacher responsible for Conduct & Pastoral Care).**

Rebekah (parent governor at school with safeguarding remit) clarified that this now comes under safeguarding – if parents have a concern about mental wellbeing of their child they should raise this with their form tutor, especially if they are feeling school hinders rather than supports mental wellbeing.

Naomi mentioned that a Year 7 parent she had spoken to had been disappointed at the school playing lip service to mental wellbeing by wearing of a piece of yellow clothing on World Mental Health day whilst at the same time exacerbating mental ill health by piling on homework and the threat of detention for 'trivial things' (not underlining work, forgetting homework once) which were causing the Year 7 students a great deal of stress. **We recognise that this may not be the experience of**

all students and some families really valued raising awareness on World Mental Health Day. Parents and families are reminded to contact the College for individual concerns. Heads of Years are the ideal point of contact in the first instance.

Ben said that during the pandemic if pastoral care is mainly through the form tutor, there is now almost no interaction with form tutor. For Year 7s this is particularly difficult as they will not have built up relationship with staff over previous years. Is there any good way of having a pastoral view? Class teachers doing registration, therefore no consistent viewpoint. Some form tutors may not teach the students in their form at all, therefore how can they begin to know/understand/support them? Has this been overlooked? This has not been overlooked but it is good to raise this. The school is stretched like many other schools. However, given that there are now almost 8 entrance/exits compared to two across three sites, the College cannot make their normal tutor periods available on the timetable during the pandemic. But this will return in the longer term.

AP: Rebekah will take forward as the safeguarding governor.

During lockdown tutors did contact students – there was an awful lot of pastoral care going on (some students were being called daily/weekly). School think they have done pastoral care well, but this seems not to be the view of all parents, especially Year 7.

Ben said that his child only had one phone call, but then she was engaging through show my homework and submitting work etc. Other schools were doing a lot more contact. There are different experiences as different schools would have prioritised differently. The College wanted to ensure that staff were equipped in using Microsoft Teams to teach.

Music – an opportunity to meet new music staff (or at least the new head of music) and to find out their plans for music in the school

AP: Liz will share these topic ideas with the school.

Alison raised the issue that there needs to be school representative at each Friends meeting so that they can hear directly what parents are saying.

AP: Liz to clarify who the school representative is that will attend the meetings.

AOB

What to spend the money on – any ideas to email Liz.

Candy suggested using small amounts eg decorating the school boards etc
Waiting to hear back from Lewisham Council about bicycle sheds – PTA could help fund these

Old instruments – Mr Dottridge said in email “Instruments are always welcome in a music department. If I had to prioritise I would say that electronic keyboards would be the biggest need at the moment in terms of resources but all acoustic instruments such as violins are always welcome!”

If they can't use them then could sell them to raise money to go towards new instruments. We could collate list of what has been offered and he can choose.

AP: Liz to send email out to parents with a call-out for instruments.

Next meeting: 12 January 7pm