

CHAIR REPORT - AGM : March 2nd 2016

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending this year's AGM.

I have now been Chair for the two years but, it is now time to step down and let a new wave of parents take over. Alison Lawrence, who has been our fantastic AFS Secretary, is also stepping down. In addition, Helen Felton who has been the Volunteer Coordinator will also finish today after a year of unstinting support for the AFS in this role. I feel confident that all 3 of us leave the AFS committee in ship-shape condition while stressing that we will be available to the new Chair/ Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator who have been appointed at this AGM tonight, for advice and help as those individuals take on their new roles over the next few months.

Thank you to all the very many parents who give time and help, come rain or shine (and there was a lot of rain, as I recall on the morning of the 11+ entrance exam last September) to help the boys via the AFS and to those of you who help in so many other ways, such as donations for raffle prizes and other one-off donations or simply helping your sons bake or provide cakes for the termly cake sales.

We are always actively hoping to encourage more parents to get involved and to sign up for the Standing Order Scheme which makes a huge difference to the school and to its ability to provide extra curricular activities. We aim to help give the boys a rounded experience at school by engaging in such extra curricular activities ranging from all manner of sports to a wide spectrum of lunchtime and after school clubs all of which complement the serious academic side of school.

So - what have we been doing since last February 2015?

The year since the last AGM has been very busy, as usual. Last summer we had the very successful Summer Party, sponsored by Waitrose in Hall Green and through which we raised over a £1000 in profits for the AFS. It was a fun if noisy event at the Kitchen Garden Cafe in Kings Heath with plenty of Blues music and dancing and a live comedy act. In the summer term, the AFS also helped with Senior Drama, Sports Day and the Alumni Day.

Our termly cakes sales are still very popular and are a great way of raising money and bring the boys together in a fun and very lively fashion - like locusts in the lobby area by the Hall! Monies this year are going to the long awaited Duke of Edinburgh scheme to help buy tents, equipment etc.

In the Autumn term we helped with the 11+ Entrance Exam and the Open Evening and Morning both in early September, the new year 7 social evening in early October, Junior Drama, the GCSE presentation night attended by over 200 people and then finally the Carol Service at the end of term. Helen Felton also ran a very successful bag pack at Waitrose in Hall Green which helped to raise much needed funds for the newly launched Duke of Edinburgh scheme at school. Thank you Helen and the teachers involved who also gave up so much of their free time! We hope to continue this bag pack link with Waitrose as they were fantastic to work with.

In the Spring term we also organised the increasingly popular Quiz run by Graham Spalding with the help of his children. Thank you Graham for being the best compere we could hope for! A great success as ever! More and more of the boys are attending which is great for us to see. Thanks to Jeanette Crutchley for gathering in the Raffle prizes and doing tons behind the scenes as always.

Next week, one of the teachers is running **the Great Edwardian Bake Off** with monies to be raised for Sports Relief - so **year 8 boys** - get baking and mixing! The usual termly cake sale will take place on **Tuesday 15th March** and will form one part of the week's events. So please remember to bake or bring something in for that day, as usual to the Hall from 8am onwards.

Before the end of term, we can look forward to Senior Drama which will be performed on the nights of **March 17, 18th and 19th** so look out for tickets. Senior Drama is always such a fine performance and something very worthwhile to support.

Coming up next term will be a one-off **International Event** run by our Vice Chair, Safina Ahmed which looks set to be a fantastic night - pencil in **Friday, May 6th, 2016**. Please look out for details of this event - it's something that will really show off the multi culturism of our wonderful school. Do get involved and do look out for details.

In addition, Frances Evans is organising the **Diamond Jubilee Ball** to celebrate 60 years of the school at Vicarage Road. Again, please do look out for details and do come along and support the school by buying tickets. The date for this is **Friday 17th June, 2016**. It promises to be a wonderful evening.

Before the end of the Summer Term, we have the the **summer cake sale** (May 3rd), the **Summer Soiree** a night of musical delights (16th June) , the **new Year 7 Induction Evening** (Wed 29th June), **the 11+ Familiarisation Morning** (25th June), **Sports Day** (Wed 13th July) and finally **Alumni Day** (Sat 16th July).

As well as the usual funding of the school Chronicle Magazine, the AFS has directly supported the teaching staff by making financial donations to the following departments since last February (full details to be found in the Treasurer's Report) :

- £1700 towards the start up costs and buying of equipment required by the newly established and long awaited Duke of Edinburgh Scheme
- monies to the Geography Department for GPS equipment and
- monies for the Physics Department for special stopwatches.

In the pipeline and which will be funded next term will be

- over £1000 to be given to the Art Department to replace all the mounts and frames that are coming to the end of their working life and
- monies to the Sports Department to be spent on hardware that will be used to track and monitor pupil performance and other such data.

We also grant Bursaries to boys who want to engage in a worthwhile out of school activity for which they require funding. Applications for this should be made to the AFS, speaking first to the relevant Head of Year for advice. We are usually able to grant about £250 or so towards something which has been thought through and is accompanied by a clear proposal. We did not make any bursary grants last year so please don't forget to knock on our door this coming year.

I would like to give my thanks to all the regular committee members for their hard work and help throughout the year as well as to parents who help on a one-off basis. The AFS is very grateful to each and every one of you. Please do keep on helping in whatever form you can.

Particular thanks from me to :

Safina Ahmed - for being a fantastic Vice Chair who did a great job running the GCSE night last October and who is organising the International Event in May which I am sure will be a great success.

Charles Wood - for unstinting support of the school in his role as Treasurer without whose knowledge and expertise we would all grind to a halt!

Alison Lawrence - steps down after two fabulous years as Secretary and who is always available to help at all the regular events during the year and whose art work has been such a bonus to us!

Helen Felton - steps down after a year of very hard work as Volunteer Coordinator having also set up a new email address for this role and has streamlined emails/parent help. Helen has also been instrumental in sorting out the AFS web page which has been a very slow process for various reasons not related to her!

Amanda Rogers - for running the 100 club with her husband, teacher, representative **Andrew Rogers**. Thankfully she is now back to good health. Thank you Andrew for your support, as always.

Jeanette Crutchley - who is always there in the background, supporting the AFS and answering questions and stepping in when help is required. We couldn't do it without you!

Finally, thank you once again to each and everyone who offers time and help or money however great or small. I am glad we have some new year 7 recruits and do keep coming to help!

I anticipate that this next year will be just as good as last year and please do all come to events and support the AFS and therefore the school!

I will be stepping down but I won't stop being around to help - see you all soon! It's been a pleasure working for the school - coming up for my 10th year in one form or another!!! Please come and support the new Chair and his/her team at the **next AFS meeting on Wednesday April 13th, 2016**.

Anjum