

Assembly 21st October

Good Morning. I am Dr Vanessa Manley and in addition to being a local GP and parent of 2 Camp Hill Boys I am delighted to be the Chair of the AFS and even more delighted to be here in front of you today.

Let's start with a little story

Once upon a time there was an organisation called the AFS- The association of Friends of the School

The AFS were a group of kind and helpful parents who really wanted to make their sons lives at school even better than it already was.

They gave up their free time to come and make refreshments for concerts and plays, put on parties, sold sweets at sports day, ran Marathons, organised raffles, paid for minibuses and thought of all manner of ways to raise money so that their boys could have whatever they wanted at school.

Oh, how hard they worked! Oh how much money they did manage to raise!

But it wasn't enough. There was always something else that they wanted to do.

" Many of the boys don't even know about us and what we do" they wailed.

"Only a small number of the total parents get involved" cried another.

"How can we get more boys and more parents involved so that we can follow the Camp Hill way and always do better and more?" They sobbed.

"We need extra help"

And, as if by magic, along came the Senior Rugby Team

" We can help, if you can help us to go on Tour" said the senior rugby team

"Hooray" chanted the AFS " Take us to your leaders and we can really work together"

So here we are.

This seems like a bit of a silly story, but it is absolutely true. The AFS

is the organisation of parents and teachers that is genuinely there to provide things that the school cannot. It is a fully registered charity and has all the proper things that a charity needs, like elected committee members, a constitution and audited accounts- so we are completely legit! You will all have seen us at Sports day, or making teas at school concerts or plays, but we actually do a whole load more and last year managed to raise about £10k through a variety of ways.

We have really been trying to make ourselves bigger and better and now have our own website www.afscamphillboys.org.uk but we want to do even more and this is where you come in.

I want to give you 4 messages today that I want you to take home and put into place PLEASE

If you do, you will find that the AFS has even more cash when you apply to us for bursaries for exciting travel plans or courses, or more money to sponsor new equipment or kit for your sport or chess match. We have agreed to pay for the snacks and drinks for homework club. We genuinely welcome requests from all sections of the school and will consider any applications for money or practical assistance.

Ok, the first message and the big take home point is

1. Please register you, your parents, your grandparents and all of your street as supporters of A F S Boys on www.easyfundraising.co.uk and www.easysearch.co.uk

In a minute I will show you how to actually register so there are no excuses!

Every time you make a search on Google or visit any online retailer and buy something (like Amazon) Google get a small percentage.

If you do your searches or reach your retailer through the Easyfundraising website after registering as an A F S KECH supporter, that money comes to us, not Google- Simple as that.

We started this 18 months ago and for doing nothing more than that, have already raised £1440. But there are only 113 registered supporters of this school. Think how many there could be this evening. Think how many times you or your family search the internet for anything. Think how often someone you knows buys something from any major retailer- not just Amazon- go and look at the site, all the shops are there. It doesn't have to be you or your family- get your neighbours to register too. Think about all that Christmas shopping that might be done, even grocery shopping.

This is genuinely money for nothing apart from visiting one website. Please go and do it!

2. My second request is to ask you to consider becoming one of our Pupil Liaison officers- there is an advert on the website and an application form (don't worry about the closing date). This would give you a chance to really influence what the AFS does and how it spends its money and to get your friends and peers up to date with what they can do to help. As a registered charity, we can give you a jolly nice reference for your CV if you need a spot of Charity work on it...
3. My third request is to ask you to really work with the Senior rugby team over this 6 month collaborative project. Get involved, come and join in at the Sainsburys Bag pack in December, the more you do, the more you and the whole school will benefit, because it might be your group that we are doing something for next..
4. My final request is that you really try and get your parents involved.

Get them to have a look at our website. Suggest to them that they come to the Dinner Dance at the Botanical Gardens on November 12th- they will have a great time, you can have them out of the house for the evening and the Rugby team will pay less for their tour- sounds perfect? The details are on the website and have been sent round school comms several times.

If every parent gave up 2 hours of their time during your entire 6 years in school we would have all of the events covered. Perhaps you can ask them when you get home!

If your parents are already involved with the AFS and already support you through them, please go home and say a huge thank you.

Right let's look at that Easyfundraising website

Thank you for your time.