

Farlingaye High School Friends

Notes of Annual General Meeting

Held Thursday 26th November 2020 on Zoom

1. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Chris Moran, invited parents and carers to the meeting via the Zoom link and admitted participants into the meeting as they arrived throughout the introduction. Mr Moran introduced himself as Chair of the committee, an assistant head of the school and a parent of past and present children at Farlingaye school. He noted that in our large high school, the FHSF gives parents a chance to meet up and work with each other and the school and he hopes parents will be encouraged to do so. The format of the evening was outlined – introduction, FHSF activities, message from the Head teacher and Treasurers report to be followed by virtual workshops, with some live and some pre-recorded content.

- 1.1. FHSF Committee – The FHSF runs as a charity and as such a formal AGM is held yearly. Otherwise, we meet 4 or 5 times a year for about an hour or so (the last two being by Zoom due to current situation but usually in person). All are welcome to meetings of the committee to participate or just to listen in. The committee organises the AGM, fundraising events, and refreshments at other school events such as concerts, parents' evenings, shows etc. Recent social events included the Makers Market and the Quiz Night, two very popular staples of the FHSF calendar, and a successful car boot sale. Unfortunately, all events had to be cancelled in 2020 but we are hopeful that 2021 will see the return of at least some although it is difficult to make any firm plans at present.
- 1.2. This year, a new event is being organised. Julie Bayfield is organising an on-line Christmas auction. The auction will run on Facebook. Chris Moran published the link to Facebook which is also available on the Farlingaye High School website.
- 1.3. New ideas are always welcome. As well as being successful fund-raisers, the social aspect of the events is very important. Our aim is to organise events that are sociable, affordable and enjoyable and to bring parents and carers together.
- 1.4. It is noted that the FHSF is looking for a new secretary. My children have long left Farlingaye and after quite a few years, I also need to be moving on. It's not a difficult or time consuming role – attending the meetings, taking some notes and then circulating them, sending out requests and news etc. I can provide the email address and contacts, past notes, training (?) as well as coffee and cake to ease the handover along! Contact me or Chris Moran if you can help out.

2. Headmaster's Report:

- 2.1. The Headmaster, Dr Sievwright, welcomed all to the meeting and made his presentation.
- 2.2. This year has been challenging. Pre-covid, the school was working on a number of key aims: promoting the "inclusive classroom", extra-curricular activities, building

resilience and promoting well being.

2.3. Following the covid outbreak, the focus has had to shift. The school has concentrated on staying open, implementing protocols for full and safe access to the curriculum, developing teaching outside the classroom and communication with the key stakeholders. Parent's evenings and an open evening have been successfully held on-line and this will continue if necessary.

2.4. Looking forward, Dr Sievewright noted that the school is intent on a return to the full curriculum; continued progression of interactive teaching; and aims to adapt and utilise all the best examples of teaching.

3. Treasurer's Report:

3.1. The Financial report was presented to the meeting.

3.2. There has been no income from events this year. But some income has been made via the Give as you Live and Amazon Smile fund raising sites. Parents are encouraged to sign up to these fund raising sites which make donations to FHSF each time you spend money at one of the participating shops.

3.3. The current balance is around £6,000.

3.4. Funds are used to try to improve learning and maintain a broad base education for the students. FHSF money helped to fund the picnic shelters and the long jump construction. Donations to help fund a new mini-bus may be made if necessary. Year 9 first aid training, and the D of E award training are both funded by the FHSF each year. Recently, the emphasis on technology spending has increased and the FHSF has provided money for upgrading of ICT with visualisers and tablets etc.

3.5. Everyone can make a difference by contributing to and attending FHSF events. Please give your support via Julie's auction and the charity donations shopping sites.

4. Workshops

4.1. Following the meeting, participants were invited to attend two workshops from the list available via further links.

5. Date of next meeting

5.1. The date of the next FHSF meeting will be advised. Please keep a look out on the school website for FHSF notes, news and events.