

# Farlingaye High School Friends

## Notes of a meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

1. **Those Present:** Chris Moran (chair), Andy Sievewright (head teacher), Debbie Hambleton, Geraldine Armes, Jenny Golding, Sam Moss, Bev Rogers, Linda Woodard.

New members Jenny and Sam introduced themselves and are welcomed to the committee. Jenny also volunteered her husband as a willing helper.

Chris Moran passed on a list of interested parents who will be added to the committee distribution list for the notes and who we look forward to seeing soon.

2. **Apologies etc.:** Apologies received from Emma Barton, Sarah Holmes, Elaine Mayhew (did try but link got lost somewhere) and Caroline Swale. Also, Harriet Howe is not able to make Thursdays but registered her interest in helping out.

Siobhan Horner is stepping down from FHSF. Siobhan was instrumental in transforming the Makers Market last autumn into a great event and our many thanks go to her for all her work over the last couple of years with that and other events. Keep in touch Siobhan – we hope to resurrect that great day when Covid permits and will need your guidance!

Aruna Jagroep has also resigned from the committee. Thank you Aruna for your participation.

Today's meeting is again being held on Zoom. The meeting invite was sent to me and then forwarded on to the committee. I apologise if anyone had difficulty with the link but please let me know and I will try to make it better next time.

3. **Chris introduced the meeting and the role of FHSF.**

There are around 40 members currently on the committee list. We normally have 10-15 attending meetings in person but everyone is welcome to attend and to get involved in organising events or simply to help out once in a while with refreshments etc.

Meetings are usually held in school (but currently are being run on Zoom) between 7 and approximately 8pm. They rarely take more than an hour but may be followed by a visit to a local hostelry, if required!

The FHSF provides refreshments at various school events including parents' evenings, concerts, drama/musical productions. This entails two or three volunteers purchasing a few provisions, making tea and coffee, and collecting donations. Usually this would be for three hours or so at parents' evenings but otherwise an hour or so. FHSF also organises money raising events. Currently, this is the Autumn term fayre, updated last year to the very successful Makers Market; the ever popular Spring term quiz night; and a Summer term event which has been variously a Summer Ball, bingo night, themed music nights, and most recently a Car Boot Sale.

It is noted that the February Quiz night is not formally cancelled yet. We will assess the situation in the new year.

The funds FHSF raise are used to support students in areas above and beyond the budget constraints. In recent years the funds have contributed to the playground canopies, lighting and PA systems in the New Hall, equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh programme, Year 9 first aid course, and many other items. Currently we are using funds to boost the ICT provisions within the school with upgraded tablets, visualisers and so on which has become increasingly needed as teaching methods have evolved.

4. **Treasurers Report and expenditure of funds**

- 4.1. Chris Moran shared the Financial report with the meeting.

- 4.2. The Give as you Live scheme is still running for many companies (Trainline and Screwfix being two of Bev's particular favourites!) and everyone is encouraged to continue using it. Amazon are now using a different scheme called "Amazon Smile" which Farlingaye

Foundation is signed up to as a charity to choose from. All parents are asked to use Amazon smile in lieu of normal Amazon (it is exactly the same but simply accessed through the Smile link) and to pick Farlingaye as their charity.

- 4.3. Chris Moran to send out another reminder about Give as you Live and Amazon Smile. A credit card style reminder was suggested but as this is purely an online facility it may not be appropriate. However, it is an idea worth bearing in mind.
- 4.4. There is currently a balance of around £6,000 in the bank. 10 visualisers have been purchased and are being used. Teacher laptops are being replaced gradually with surface books etc. as agreed at previous meeting.

## 5. AGM – Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- 5.1. The usual format of the AGM is a short meeting to report on the school in general (by Dr S) and then on FHSF activity (by Mr M). This is then followed by a series of workshops and parents can choose two to attend. Previous workshop topics have included: online safety, the teenage brain, supporting boys, typical English and Maths lessons, university applications, and so on.
- 5.2. The AGM will hopefully be presented via Zoom this year. With the school address, there is no time limit on a zoom meeting length and, so far, a 100+ attendees licence has not been needed. Running the AGM on Zoom may need the workshops to be run as separate meetings rather than “break out” rooms. Workshops could also be recorded in advance rather than being live. Jenny suggested that students could make videos to share with, say, tips on homework etc. which could be aimed at their peers.
- 5.3. Suggestions for workshops were put forward:
  - Students sharing ideas on homework, work/play balance etc.
  - Lockdown issues – lack of motivation, how to reinvigorate enthusiasm, how to cope if it happens again. Could have student input via recordings too. Should include positives too such as how students may have benefitted from different ways of learning, independent learning etc.
  - On-line issues – e-safety but also what to encourage, what to discourage, how to police use at home, how to discuss use with your child etc.
  - The teenage brain – always popular. Could it include mental health aspects of lockdown and its effects on the teenager’s brain in particular? How does the brain deal with stress? How to recognise mental health issues and the Apps available to help. (Is this a separate workshop? Or could be part of “Lockdown issues”).
  - University application – it was noted that the later timing of the AGM would mean that this misses most of the deadlines for yr13 but could be aimed at yr12s instead. Could include clearing etc. which would be of interest to yr13.
  - Apprenticeships and other career pathways.
  - On-line homework and Teams lessons for parent. How does it all work?
- 5.4. Chris to discuss the ideas with teachers or other possible presenters.
- 5.5. It was noted that the AGM is usually a good opportunity for parents to mix and meet other parents and that this is an important aspect of the meeting. Chris to look at a “conference” style for the beginning of the meeting (Dr S and Mr M presentations) so that attendees can see each other. This could then be followed by a mix of pre-recorded and live presentations.
- 5.6. Bev suggested that “live” workshops could be run by two hosts to allow questions on the side/interaction from the audience to be monitored by an assistant. Could FHSF members co-host? Chris to get feedback from possible presenters first and then go out to committee if appropriate.

## **6. Any Other Business**

- 1.1. No other business was discussed, but I would like to note again my request for a new secretary. As noted at previous meetings, I no longer have any children at the school and need to scale back on FHSF participation in the not too distant future. Any applications for position of secretary will be gratefully received – full training with coffee and cakes, or lunch and wine (or both!) available, established email and contact list included.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

- 7.1. **AGM – THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020** – usually 7pm for meeting followed by workshops at 7.30 and 8.00pm. But further information to follow once Zoom format is established.