



FRIENDS MEETING

Meeting minutes

Wednesday 14th May 2025, 7.30pm

In Attendance

Rachel B (RB), Clare D (CD), Paula M (PM), Maria G (MG), Elaine L (EL)

Apologies

Sarah M (ME), Karen B (BU), Miles M (MM), Gill R (GR), Charanjit S (CS),

Rock Academy Update

Overview: Thank to a very generous anonymous donor we have now hit our £20,000 target for Rock Academy. An application to change the use of the unit has been submitted and we are hoping work will be able to start in the summer, pending the application outcome.

Alcester Street Market – Sunday 8th June

The theme for this year is TV and film from the 70's to the present day.

We will be parading in the procession and our theme will be Alice in Wonderland, specifically the card army. Mr Yarrington has kindly said he will make us a Queen of Hearts mascot and CD and RB will make the card costumes.

We are still in need of bottles and will go out again to the school and community.

If you could let us know by half term whether you are able to help, we would appreciate it. Thank you to PM for offering to do the morning. CD and RB will set up and be present all day.

Staff Funding Requests

BU has made a request for funding for a peer mentoring programme. See attached appendix for full details. The cost of funding would be £895.

After discussion the Friends unanimously agreed to fully fund this believing that this will be really useful.

AOB

- Charity commission submission for 2023-24 has been submitted.
- Meal out to end the year and include last meeting. TBC possibly dates 8th/9th July.

Our next meeting will be online on **Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 7.30pm**. A link will be sent out with the agenda a week before.

Appendix 1

Peer Mentoring Proposal

- Aim: To set up a peer mentoring programme at Alcester Academy that equips student mentors with relevant and appropriate training to be able to deliver sessions with younger students.
- To be led by the school leadership team but I see years 10 & 11 being involved in the provision of the mentoring programme & year 9 students supporting Year 6 transition

Training will be provided by Kidscape:

Duration: Full day (maximum of 30 pupils; | Face-to-face classroom-based | **Cost:** £895

Our Peer Mentoring training is based on young people supporting one another. Through the training, staff will match mentors with mentees in one-on-one friendships so that they can provide guidance and support, serving as positive role models.

Our programme enables Peer Mentors to listen to and support fellow pupils (mentees); helping them deal with the current challenges they may be struggling with.

Our full-day interactive programme will provide young people with the knowledge, skills and tools to become confident Peer Mentors.

Learning outcomes

- Recognise the benefits of a Peer Mentoring programme
- Understand what is involved in the Peer Mentoring process
- Share the key responsibilities of a Peer Mentor
- Recognise personal qualities and skills
- Have a greater awareness of safeguarding procedures
- Increased confidence to communicate and listen effectively
- Promote well-being and positive mental health
- Signpost to further help and support

Additional features

- **School Lead Handbook** - This handbook covers all key elements of a peer mentoring programme - from setting up the programme to the monitoring and evaluation
- **Peer Mentors Training Programme** - This training will provide staff with a framework of activities to use with their peer mentors to make sure they are fully prepared for the role
- **Peer Mentors Poster** - This poster will help schools promote their programme
- **Peer Mentors Handbook** - Pupils will be supported to record and reflect on their learning from taking part in the peer mentoring training