



# FRIENDS AGM MEETING

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## Meeting minutes

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7.00pm

### In Attendance

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Sarah M, Karen B, Miles M, Rachel B, Clare D, Paula M, Maria G, Gill R, Elaine L

### Apologies

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### Introductions

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Introductions were made. We welcome Elaine who joins us this year and look forward to working with everyone this year. Sarah discussed roles and everyone was in agreement that our main aims will continue to be fundraising and getting money to benefit the students and we will work collaboratively with Rachel continuing to put the agenda, minutes and comms out. All members present were in agreement.

### Review of the Year 2023-24

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Sarah M thanked everyone for their fundraising efforts for last year. Rachel thanked everyone for another successful year and for all of our events. In total we raised £5448.37 after expenses. As the raffle was shared between our fundraising goal and our Rock Academy Studio appeal, a total of £367.41 is deducted from this to give us £5080.95 towards the Clever Touch Smart Screens that are used across the school.

Our events overall were successful, and we continue to learn and grow these each time. Bingo nights are by far the most profitable event that we run. Each event has grown and we will implement some changes in seating at our next bingo to allow more houses and improve the service we offer to our community.

### The Year Ahead 2024-25

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Lots of events already on the calendar for this year. Full calendar of events will be shared onto our socials and website. As we discussed in our last meeting, we would increase the number of bingos we do to 3 this year.

Calendar of events will be shared via email to members.

We will run a raffle at this years' production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This is a new fundraising venture this year. Volunteers will be needed to assist with selling raffle tickets over the 3

nights. The draw will take place on the last night of the show live. Student cast member to draw winning ticket. £1 per ticket. Prize will be a luxury hamper. Volunteers will also be needed to assist with running the bar/tuck shop. 2/3 members per night?

Sarah suggested running a food drive for the Arden Foodbank. Rachel suggested the start of December which we all agreed on. A date was not decided, and we agreed that we would look at the forward calendar and discuss in the next meeting.

Add calendar to socials/website and share to members – **RACHEL**

Look at dates to do a food drive to support Arden Foodbank and contact foodbank nearer to the date to see what goods they will be in need of - **RACHEL**

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## Fundraising Goal

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Rachel suggested that this year rather than fundraising for 1 particular item that the Friends could set a target but release a Form to staff to complete to make bids for items that we could discuss at meetings. This would mean that we are buying smaller things more often which would not only benefit more students but also help raise our profile being able to share what we are buying and the difference it makes with our community. All members agreed that this would be a good idea.

Produce an online form to launch with staff to make bids - **RACHEL**

We will still aim to raise £6000 this year through events.

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## November Bingo – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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Non uniform to run on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October to support the bingo and future events. 1 Year group to bring in chocolate donations, other year groups to make a monetary donation to support prizes for this and future events.

We will continue to use SumUp as a payment platform and bingo will be available this weekend. We will contact all people buying bingo admission to confirm numbers if they do not state at time of booking to better control numbers and allocate tables. People can book places via our SumUp store, cash via the school office or on the door providing we have availability.

We previously agreed to have additional tables in the upper canteen area and be clear with our advertising that groups of 6 or more will automatically be booked when booking tickets. If people wish to book tables, they will be advised to email us but we will confirmed that these will be shared with others so we do not have groups of 2 or 3 taking up a full table.

Prizes for the bingo will be part donated by students and partly purchased. Money to purchase will be taken from the non-uniform money like we did this year. Clare talked about her link to Tesco and we will purchase when the best offers come on to make sure we get them at the best price.

We will run our usual tuck shop and bar. Maria offered to sort the cakes for the event. Thank you Maria.

Clare raised the raffle at events. We will continue to do a raffle but this will be a smaller scale as lots more businesses are supporting other PTA's making getting raffle prizes more difficult.

CD is allocated as an employee on Sum Up and will be using her mobile during the evening as an additional card reader.

- Banners will need to be updated and put up in the community to advertise. **RACHEL/CLARE**

- Posters/Flyers to go up to local businesses and posted to our neighbours – **GILL & KAREN**
- Social media event created and shared across our platforms and Alcester News. Please feel free to then share this into any other groups that may be relevant – **RACHEL**
- Cakes for the event – **MARIA**
- Raffle prizes – **CLARE**
- Bingo prizes – **RACHEL/CLARE**

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## 200 Club

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Rules and purpose have been amended and will be distributed for this coming year. We do have approximately 50 numbers up for grabs but this may rise depending on the renewal uptake from those who purchased their numbers last year for 12 months.

12-month membership renewals will go out this week and they will have 2 weeks to renew before their numbers are made available to anyone.

All 200 Club details must be returned to us by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024. All numbers will be issued on a first come first served basis. People wishing to pay via standing order will need to register their interest and we will then contact them to give them their reference number for the draw. They will then need to ensure that their standing order is set up to be taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month going forward. This will mean we will start to move members onto an online database that can be managed effectively.

One change to the rule this year is the double draw in July to draw July and August. Next year there will be no double draw and we will advertise this well. Instead, the August draw will take place on our first day back in September. The reason for this change is that we are effectively drawing August without payments being taken which means there may be people in the draw that have not paid. This ensures we are fair to all and work within the rules to ensure all people in the draw have paid.

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## School Fund

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This has been launched to parents for this year via the School Gateway. Gift Aid forms went out with the email.

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## AOB

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Sarah said that BIDs have gone into Redrow and Persimmon homes – Thank you Gill for the suggestions.

Sarah also said that she would speak to Ren about a bid into the Newport Foundation to support the Rock Academy Studio Fund.

Sarah said that there will possibly be a concert with Texan Peacocks again this year to support the RASF. Date TBC.

Clare brought a suggestion to the group about having something that makes us as members more visible at events. Clare suggested a lanyard. We will discuss this further. We could look into some t-shirts that we could brand for Friends.

Sarah said that meetings this year will continue to be monthly but will be strategic or planning meetings. For general planning meetings, SLT will not always need to be represented.

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## Next Meeting

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Our next meeting will be online on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.00pm.