

FRIENDS MEETING

Meeting minutes

Wednesday 3rd December 2025, 7.30pm

In Attendance

Rachel B, Clare D, Karen B, Elaine L, Charajit S, Maria G

Apologies

Sarah M, Paula M, Gill R

November Bingo

Unfortunately, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the November bingo night due to weather warnings in place. It was the right decision locally as there were power cuts across Alcester and conditions for driving would have been an unnecessary risk to both staff and visitors attending.

All people who had pre booked tickets have been refunded, either via the sumup store or bank transfer. A small number of people did say to roll theirs over to the January bingo so this has been recorded.

All prizes will be in date for the January bingo so will roll over to then which will mean we have all prizes covered.

Tickets for January are available online in the store and we will launch the advertising just after Christmas to give us 5 weeks' worth of sales.

Going forward RB/CD will be buying prizes for events rather than having chocolate donations. The reasoning behind this is that we will be able to ensure that we do not have nut products within prizes. We do currently have prizes that contain nuts but once these have been used, our events will be free from nuts.

Actions:

- Banners to go up between Christmas and New Year – **RB/CD**
- Flyer to be sent out locally – **RB/BU**

If any other parent/carer would be interested in helping support our events, please email friends@alcesteracademy.org.uk

School Show 2025

A huge thank you to CD, PM, CM, KJ, FL and MT for assisting with the show this year. It was very busy and we're grateful for the time you've all given in order to support this.

Area	Night 1	Night 2	Night 3	Total	Expenses	Profit
Bar/Tuck	£371.53	£360.29	£641.04	£1372.86		
Raffle	£87.95	£114	£95	£296.95		£296.95
Donations			£91.34	£91.34		£91.34
Totals	£459.48	£474.29	£827.38	£1761.15		

Raffle not as popular as last year (£100 down on last year).

The snack shack overall was a good idea, although the space was a little small which slowed service down. Next year we can look at making a cash only queue and card queue to speed things up and include hot drinks in the area which would pull more staffing to the area which would improve flow. Look at removing the raffle next year and focusing our attention on the bar and tuck shop. Charging for hot drinks would make up the money lost on the raffle so we wouldn't really lose out financially.

Extra help needed to set up on the first night and close on the last night. It was too tight with just CD and RB.

A big thank you to Ragley house for raising £74.72 via bucket collections at the show. This is amazing and we're all so grateful for your support.

Actions:

- Complete a review of the event to improve for next year – **RB/CD**

Santa Route 2025 – Tuesday 16th December

- We have been allocated the Birmingham Road route this year on Tuesday 16th December. So far, we have had 7 adult volunteers and 4 children. Thank you to RB, CD, EL and Mrs Bush for volunteering so far.

Actions:

- Socials post has gone out asking for help – **RB**
- Message has gone out to staff for help – **RB**

Staff Funding Requests

Both renewal and new sign-up messages have gone out for the 2025-26 draw period. RB will put a reminder out and advertise on socials.

Staff	Item	Cost	Reason	Decision
BT	Mypath Careers	£625	Comprehensive careers resources – raised after further information received. BT has also put in a grant so if we authorise funding and this is then covered under the grant we will not require to give funding.	Yes, if not covered by grant request
HA	Low paperback library spinner	£315	We have made a significant investment in enhancing accessibility within our library by increasing our collection of Barrington Stoke (Dyslexia Friendly) titles. This specialized stock is currently housed in its own designated area, allowing students to easily and independently locate these essential, accessible reading	Yes, we agreed to fund a new spinner to

			<p>materials. This dedicated shelving has proven highly effective in supporting our dyslexic and reluctant readers.</p> <p>The display unit we utilize for this popular collection—a dedicated spinner—has now reached full capacity. To maintain the momentum of our successful initiative and continue to meet the growing demand, we require an additional, high-capacity spinner to accommodate the continued expansion of our critical Barrington Stoke collection.</p>	support learning.
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200 Club

139 people have paid to join the 200 Club for 2025-26. Not all members who registered have paid for memberships. Reminders have gone out. Winning numbers will be advertised in the bulletin and will continue to be advertised on socials.

If anyone wishes to join or would like more information they should contact the friends via email. We currently have 61 numbers vacant.

We have paid our annual fee of £20 to Stratford District Council to cover our activity.

AOB

Paula sent in some information regarding funding for charities through Movement for Good. We will look at this for next year.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be online on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.30pm.