

Friends of Benhurst Association



2nd February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

The AGM for the Friends of Benhurst Association (FOB) took place on Wednesday evening. I'm sad to report that we were unable to appoint new Committee members due to a lack of interested volunteers. As a result, we have called an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) as a final opportunity to find and appoint a new Committee. This will take place on Wednesday 7 March from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in the staff room. If we are unable to appoint new Committee members at this meeting then we will have to consider the dissolution of FOB. If we find ourselves in that situation, FOB will cease to exist and any remaining assets will be distributed to the school. That would mean no more fundraising events or activities (eg discos, Summer Fete, Christmas Bazaar, production of personalised Christmas cards/products) can take place and, ultimately, we will not be able to fund projects and equipment that are vital to our children's school.

We are sincerely hoping that we can avoid that situation from occurring and are committed to doing everything we can to encourage and support any potential volunteers for these roles. As such, we are planning to hold a drop in session for parents to come and find out more about the roles and what they involve - or even just to find out more about FOB and what we do. Rest assured, attendance at the session will not place any obligation on you to put yourself forward for a role! Albeit we do hope that, following the session, some of you will be comfortable enough to do so.

The session will take place on Friday 23 February at 9am in the school. Please come and join us - all parents and carers are welcome. I am confident that we can adequately address and reassure you as regards many of the concerns or questions you might have. If you want to find out more but can't attend the proposed drop in session then please just get in contact with me. I am willing to meet interested parents at mutually convenient times. It is also worth mentioning that you do not need to be able to attend the EGM to put yourself forward for a Committee position but you do need to contact us beforehand and confirm you're willing to be nominated.

As a further aide, I have put together a paper setting out some of the most pertinent information eg what formal roles need to be filled, why, what they involve and so on. This is attached together with some relevant guidance notes from PTA UK.

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Registered Charity Number: 1106626

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We are members of PTA UK. As such, all parents and carers are able to set up their own account affording them with access to the full range of PTA UK advice/guidance material. Our membership number is 10763. Just go to their website at www.pta.org.uk and set up an account quoting our membership number.

I do appreciate that taking on a Committee role might seem very daunting but we have a wealth of experience, tools and materials available to pass on which will smooth the pathway. I can also assure you that you wouldn't be alone as there is an underlying team of supporters/volunteers and none of the current Committee are disappearing entirely - with the exception of Rachel McNamara given her youngest child moves to secondary school this Summer.

Please don't be afraid to step forward and find out more before it's too late!

Yours sincerely

Nicola Brook
Chair, Friends of Benhurst Association

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