

Minutes

MCS Friends Meeting

Tuesday 11th November 2025

Present

Emily Ryder (Vice Chair), Mark Rampton-Carter (Treasurer), Leanne Wakerley (Secretary), Sally Chilton, Mr Hampshire, Ruth Brown, Su Madurasinghe, Will Warburg, Helen Warburg.

Apologies

Tess Deighton, Noni North, Becky Stoddard, Alison Warburg,

Sign off previous minutes – Minutes of meetings 23rd September – approved. Matters Arising – none

Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer was not present but sent a report (see appendix 1).
 - **Current balance** **£11,434.10**
 - **Pending income** **£395**
 - **Allocated funds** **£7,945.56**
 - **Available funds** **£3,883.54**
- Outdoor classroom funded by Monmouth Town Council grant £4,200 – Ceri confirmed that this is due to be installed in the next 2 weeks.
- Mark reported Income and expenditure for the Twmpath Event
 - **Income** **£722.21**
 - Tickets via parent pay £285
 - Tickets on door £15
 - Bar/Raffle cash £194.80
 - Bar/Raffle sumup £227.41
 - **Expenses** **£148.45**
 - **Funds raised** **£573.49**
 - **Mark** to update asset list to reflect stock let over from Twmpath event.
- Mark confirmed that there are **funds allocated** as follows
 - Girls football kit £550
 - £174.00 remaining of National Lottery funding for PEA department – **Emily** has emailed PEA to remind them about this.
 - Summer Learning – MCS are reviewing their Summer Learning plans – friends agreed to allocate £3,000 to this for Summer Learning 2026, which can be adjusted once detailed plans are understood.
- **Mark** to contact Dawn Cater to set up Accounts Audit.
- **Second hand uniform** – mark confirmed that £60 had been received from Magic Cottage for October and £348.50 for September. Magic Cottage are now making payments monthly.
- **Easy Fundraising** – Friends received a payment of £342.00 in August for the previous quarter.

Funding Projects

Staff Requests Spring 2025 update on applications – Mr Hampshire informed Friends that the only outstanding amounts are Summer learning and girls football kit, which are in progress.

Staff Request Autumn 2025 - Friends received 17 applications from departments across the school and Friends agreed that there was £3,000 available at this time to support staff requests. Friends agreed the distribution of funds as follows. (See appendix 2 for grants given over the last 5 years.

1. **Social Sciences** asked for **£1000** for classroom air conditioning – Friends were advised that this was not an appropriate use of their funds but this is being pursued through Monmouthshire County Council.
2. **Alternative Provision** - asked for **£500** for gardening and Life skill projects to support the AP cohort – approximately 15-20 at risk students. Mr Hampshire confirmed that this is a new provision in school to support students who need enhanced provision. Friends agreed to look for a grant for this perhaps through Keep Wales Tidy or the RHS (Helen's suggestion) and revisit it if we can't find a grant.
3. **NSEA representatives** - asked for **£330** for 6 MCS branded saddle cloths for the MCS equestrian team. Friends agreed to contribute **£165** and to revisit the request in the new year.
4. **Science** asked for **£237.50** for stop watches for use by all year groups in the place of use of mobile phones in class. Friends agreed to fund this in full.
5. **PE** asked for **£500** to purchase small football goals for PE lessons to support all year groups. Friends agreed to contribute **£250.00** towards to goals and to look for a grant to fund the rest – Hellen suggested that we could approach the Football Association.
6. **RVE** (Religion, Values & Ethics) asked for **£200** to replace 2 artefacts to support year 10/11 GCSE studies. Friends agreed to contribute **£100** and to re-visit this request in the new year.
7. **Art** asked for **£965.17** for 2 ipads and pencil pros to support GCSE and A level students. Friends agreed to purchase 1 ipad and pencil pro circa **£485** now and to re-visit the request in the new year.
8. **Wellbeing Curriculum** asked for **£750** to provide resources and speakers to support the weekly wellbeing sessions in each form group in years 7-11. Friends agreed that we would like more detailed information regarding the resources/speakers involved and the likely costs before making a decision. Mr Hampshire to talk to the department.
9. **Literacy** asked for **£2182** for the purchase of sets of books to support the whole school literacy priorities and guided group reading sessions to encourage reading for pleasure in year 7 and 8. Friends agreed to contribute **£1000** towards this project.
10. **Technology** asked for **£300** for electrical components to support Y10/Y11 GCSE Built Environment students with an electrical wiring project. Friends agreed to contribute **£150**.
11. **History** asked for **£250** for artefacts to support a level history students. This request was not urgent so Friends agreed to defer it to the new year.
12. **Alternative provision** asked for **£500-£1000** to purchase beauty items to support learners, mainly girls, who need enhanced provision. Friends agreed to contribute **£100** initially to get started and to re-visit this request in the new year. Friends also suggested that the staff member contacts Boots and Superdrug who are both on Monmouth high street and may be willing to donate items. Friends would be happy to promote any business that supports the school through their communications. Su also advised Friends that Dean Academy school have been running a course like this for along time and may have some suggestions about sourcing resources.

13. **Technology** asked for **£700** to fund ingredients for KS4 students who take catering as an option subject to ensure that all students are able to participate in practical lessons and a deep fat fryer to add to the equipment in the department which would allow students to access particular parts of the curriculum and set exam brief. Friends agreed to provide **£150** per term to the department as a standing item to provide ingredients and to re-visit the request for a deep fat fryer in the new year.
14. **Technology** asked for **£75** for combination squares to support students in all year groups in accurately measuring and marking out. Friends agreed to fund this in full.
15. **Bike Shed Project** asked for **£375** to provide lighting and power tools for the bike shed project which provides a safe and supportive space for 26 boys and girls as part of the school's alternative provision. Friends agreed to contribute **£150** and suggested that the staff member approach Travis Perkins and Rober Price (in Monmouth) to see what they might be willing to donate. Friends will revisit this request in the new year.
16. **SRB** asked for **£500** to support provision of outdoor learning for students with additional learning needs (years 9 – 14) for equipment and storage. Friends agreed to look for a grant for this through the RHS or Keep Wales Tidy and to revisit this request in the new year to see if a grant application has been successful.
17. **MCS Anti-racism focus** asked for **£105** to pay for donation part of the process for applying for the School of Sanctuary award. Friends agreed to fund this in full.

Total funding agreed £2982

Leanne agreed to talk to Ceri Jones about applying for grants where appropriate and meet with departments to collect the necessary details about projects to write grant applications.

Fundraising Activities

Twmpath Event – 17th October 2025

The event raised £573.49 in funds for the school. Friends agreed that it was a successful event. All those who attended enjoyed it and the band were very good at engaging the guests. Su informed Friends that Milk Solutions (who gifted the cost of the band to the Friends to run this event) have offered to sponsor the band again if Friends wish to run this event in the future. Friends agreed that this would be a good idea. Su to write to Milking Solutions to thank them for the band this time and for their future offer.

Christmas Raffle – Launch Friday 21st November. To be drawn Friday 12th December

This is well underway. The flyer is complete. Friends discussed options presented by Su for promoting the raffle with members of the school community that do not have direct access to parent pay (relatives, friends, staff). Friends agreed to try using both Parent pay and external supplier for the Christmas Raffle if it can be set up in time.

- **Tess** is putting the hamper together.
- **Sally** is putting the drinks hamper together
- **Helen** agreed to approach Co-op and **Su** agreed to approach Waitrose and Home Bargains for items for the hampers. **Su** to write template letter to go to potential donors. **Leanne** to provide letterhead.
- **Mark** to contact Jenny in Finance to ask if we can put a link in the Parent pay copy for people to click through to buy tickets for Friends and relatives and to agree copy for raffle to go on Parent pay

- **Su** identify the best external raffle provider for us to use as a test for the Christmas Raffle and provide a link and QR code to Sarah Pilkington to get the flyer updated with these details.
- **Ruth** to put communications on Facebook
- **Leanne** to talk to Wendy about getting the flyer in the newsletter Friday 21st November.
- **Committee** to look at list of local companies to contact for Summer raffle and next year's Christmas Raffle and agree the timing for sending letters.

Second hand uniform

Sally has now handed this over to Sarah Swann. Friends want to thank Sally for all of her hard work on the second hand uniform over a number of years. **Leanne** to add Sarah to the Committee email list and make contact to ask for reports for Friends meetings and to ensure that there is support available through the committee if she needs it.

Easy Fundraising

Tess reported that there was a reaction to the Year 7 email with sign-ups to Easy Fundraising. She has just sent out a further message in the newsletter for last week. Friends agreed that this needs to be featured regularly. **Leanne** agreed to talk to **Tess** about putting together an email to go to all Year 7 and 8 parents.

Forward Planning

Next event – Friends discussed having a curry and quiz event in March

- **Leanne** to discuss catering options with Mr Hampshire and get costs
- **Leanne** to talk to school about potential dates – Friday 13th or 20th of March

Summer Raffle

- Friends agreed to move the summer raffle back to June/July as bringing it forward did not appear to have a significant impact on ticket sales. Leanne to look at potential dates for launching and drawing the raffle.

AGM

- Friends agreed to hold the AGM after the Easter break – Summer term starts 13th April – aim for w/c 20th April – Cheese and Wine. Friends also noted that the Chair has sadly had to step down permanently. The Friends would like to formally thank her for all of her hard work. This means that Friends need to look at communications in the new year to find a new Chair. **Leanne** to make contact with Mr Hutchison regarding the work of the Friends Association.

Meetings

- **Next meeting Tuesday 20th January – 7.30pm Punch House**
- **Leanne/Emily to suggest a date for Christmas drinks on What's App group**

Items for the next agenda

- Donations on Parent Pay
- AGM
- Spring Event
- Summer Raffle
- Re-visit Autumn staff requests

Appendix 1 – Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report November 11th 2025

Bank Balance 08/11/25 £11,434.10

Outstanding Receipts in

Petty cash	£ 110.00
Parentpay chq Twmpath	£ 285.00

Outstanding Payments out

Twmpath Temp Event Notice	£ 21.00
Mon Town Grant	£4,200.00

Awaiting invoice Ceri Grant payment made (Outdoor forest school classroom contractors are Playwood

	£4,221.00	£11,829.10	
Sub total			£7,608.10
Total Funds			

		Total Available Funds	£3,883.54
Assest List			
Beverage stock held	tba		
HW Urns	£ 79.98		
Glasses	£ 103.92		
Storage	£ 55.28		
Banner and lanyards	£ 69.78		
Sound lighting equip	£18,425.44		
	£18,734.40		
Lottery funding	£19,850.00	£ 174.56	
RMPA	£18,425.44		
M Culpepper	£ 1,250.00		
	£19,675.44		
Twmpath			
rev			
door parent pay	£ 285.00		
door cash	£ 15.00		
bar & raffle cash	£ 194.80		
bar & raffle sumup	£ 227.14		
exp stock	£ 127.45		
exp ten	£ 21.00		
total profit	£ 573.49		

Notes

Online payments only get same day time restriction to authorise, requested extension with bank but unable to extend time frame
 Gift aid to be claimed on donations, spoke with HMRC and this can be claimed on parent pay donation will email HMRC to get what needs to be in place info wise to claim. Emailed HMRC but no response
 Charity commissin regarding gift aid has been update
 Charity Commisison return done, chased Dawn to audit accounts but not yet done
 The school now have a new invoicing system, we will get invoices electronically sent to the friends email account.

Projects Funded over the last 5 years

Faculty of Welsh			
	Dictionaries	All Year Groups	Autum 22
	Decorations for Eisteddfod	Years 7,8,9	Summer 23
	Dictionaries	Years 7-11	Summer 24
Specialist Resource Base (SRB)			
	Consumable products and ICT Equipment	All SRB students	Autum 22
	Switches (with a grant)	All SRB students	Summer 23
Maths Faculty			
	Scientific Calculators	All Year Groups	Autumn 22
	Chess sets and Boards	Afterschool club	Summer 23
	Visual Teaching Aids	All Year Groups	Summer 23
Faculty of Science & Technology			
Science	Van der Graaf Generator	All Year Groups	Autumn 22
	Colbalt 60 Radioactive Source	Key stage 4/5	Summer 23
	10 Multimeters	All Year Groups	Summer 24
	5 Electronic PH Sensors	Years 10-13	Spring 25
	Stopwatches	All Year Groups	Autumn 25
DT Food	Ingredients for FSM students	Year 10	Autumn 22
	Ingredients for FSM students	Years 10/11	Ongoing
Design Technology	Construction materials	Years 10-11	Spring 23
	Materials GCSE built environment	Years 10-11	Summer 24
	Five Stanley Smoothing Planes	Years 10-11	Spring 25
	Electrical components	Years 10-11	Autumn 25
	Combination Squares	All Year Groups	Autumn 25
PE Faculty			
	Girls football kit	Years 7-10	Spring 23
	Sports Awards Evening medals	All year Groups	Summer 23
	Video Camera	GCSE PE & SCP students	Summer 24
	Senior boys football kit	Years 11-13	Spring 25

	Badminton Equipment	Years 8-11	Spring 25
	Small football goals	All Year Groups	Autumn 25
	MCS Saddle cloths	Equestrian team	Autumn 25
Faculty of social Sciences			
	To enter Mock bar trial	Year 8-9	Spring 23
	Uniform for Mock Bar trial	Year 8-9	Summer 23
Faculty Business, IT & Enterprise			
Computing	Keyboards and mice	All Year Groups	Spring 23
	Projector Cables	All Year Groups	Summer 24
Business			
Faculty Performance and Expressive Arts			
Drama	Ipad and Cameras	All year Groups	Spring 23
	New sound system	All year Groups, school events	Summer 23
	Clothes rails for costumes	All Year Groups	Summer 24
Music	Apple Imac	Drama and Art	Summer 24
Art and Design	Photography Equipment		
	Ipad and pens to support digital art	KS4 & 5	Spring 25
	Ipad and pens to support digital art	KS4 & 5	Autumn 25
English Faculty			
	Webcams	All Year groups	Summer 24
	Books and resources to access Carnegie Awards	Years 7-9	Spring 25
	Book sets for guided reading to promote reading for pleasure	Years 7 & 8	Autumn 25
Humanities Faculty			
RE	Religious Artefacts	Year 9	Spring 23
	Religious Artefacts	Year 10/11	
History	Historical Artefacts	All Year Groups	Summer 23
Geography	Text Books	Years 7-9	Summer 24

Faculty Of International Languages			
	Head Set cables	All Year Groups	Summer 24
	Sanako Software Licence 3 years	All Year Groups	Spring 25
Library			
	Books and Software	All Year Groups	Autumn 22
	Books	All Year Groups	Summer 24
Alternative Provision & Wellbeing			
	Provision of beauty equipment		Autumn 25
	Bike shed project - equipment		Autumn 25
	Anti-racism School of Sanctuary	All Year Groups	Autumn 25
General			
	Three Outdoor Canopies	All Students	2021
	Three concrete table tennis tables	All students	2022
	Summer Learning	All Students	Summer 23
	Teaching and Learning Champions	All Staff and students	Summer 23
	Summer Learning	All Students	Summer 24
	TLAC video camera	All Staff and Students	Summer 24
	Display Cases	All Students	Summer 24
	Table Tennis bats and balls	All students	ongoing
	Football (for breaks)	All students	Ongoing