



Registered Charity No.071996

Chair: Mrs Emma Brayne

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Chairs Comments on Previous Year 2022/23
26th September 2023 at 6pm**

Welcome and many thanks to you all for attending this evening.

We have completed yet another successful fundraising year with Friends and it has been a joy to work with this fantastic committee. Despite the cost of living crisis, we continued to successfully raise funds for the school and provided support to our school community.

This year we held many events for the children and parents. We were sympathetic with our costs due the cost of living crisis but thanks to our amazing team and volunteers we still managed to raise valuable funds.

The events consisted of movie nights, various raffles throughout the year, a number of Christmas events, Bags2School, pre-loved uniform sales and summer events and many, many pop up shop ran by our Eco team. This year we saw the return of the bingo evening and the easter egg tombola and these proved to be very successful.

The highlight for me was the Summer Fair. This year we decided to reduce the time of the fair, strip back on the time consuming festival games but then added in some new games which the children thoroughly enjoyed. A huge thanks goes to Mrs Sheepy who stood beside me and supported me through the whole event along with the incredible amount of support from the Coten End Staff. It was hectic but all worth it when we saw all the excitement and joy in the children's and parent's faces.

This year we have been well supported by the incredible ECO Team ran by Catherine Steele. She is resourceful in thinking of new ways where we can be more Eco friendly on our events and through this has created positive relationships within the school community. Her pop up events are growing from strength to strength and I can't wait to see what new ideas Catherine has in store for us.

I would also like to thank Coten End's Resource manager, Katrina George. A super woman in disguise! It goes without saying that Katrina has helped Friends in numerous ways this year. She is always there gathering information for us and making sure the logistics of events run smoothly. We cannot thank you enough for the valuable support you have provided Friends.

Friends are extremely lucky to have such an amazing team around them. My thanks extend to our wonderful secretary Louise Denton, our social media queen, Sophie Poyner our Vice Chair for all her support, Vicky Hunt for all her creativity and coming up with new ideas, Imelda Kerr for all her IT support and to Gemma Carter who has helped me a great deal especially at the Summer Fair. Another thanks to our incredible uniform shop leader Melanie who tirelessly works hard behind the scene to make sure stock is updated and uniform orders are completed. I'm sure this will be a record year of uniform sales and this is all down to Melanie for her hard work and dedication.

This leaves me with one committee member where I would like to express my deepest appreciation. Sophie Roe our loyal treasurer is moving on as her children are no longer at the school. She will be sorely missed, not only because of the tireless work, excellent financial control and love for the school but from an entirely selfish perspective, I will miss our daily interaction and voice recordings and also recognising when workload can be that little bit too much for me, you are always there to lighten the load. It's been an honour working with you, and I'm grateful for the skills and knowledge you've shared with me. Thank you for being a part of the Friends journey, and we wish you the best of luck in your new adventures.

Looking ahead into the next year I would like to continue to grow; in terms of numbers of volunteers, parents interested in leading and organising events, as well as raising money to assist in providing facilities and activities for the pupils. Together as a team I believe that we can deliver all this for the next academic year.

Thank you again for all your contributions for this year and here's to our next chapter!

Emma Brayne

Chair of Friends