



Friends of Queens Croft – Chair’s Report, February 2020

This year *Friends of Queen’s Croft* have embarked on some fantastic projects to benefit all our children.

Funds raised by *Friends* used to develop an area of the school to provide an all-inclusive swing and a new horticulture area. With research and requests from staff and senior leadership it was decided that these two additions to Queen’s Croft would be our focus.

Friends have also provided financial support for school trips across all Key Stages. This ensured trips that might otherwise have been unviable were able to go ahead and students obtained a great deal of enjoyment and learning, both academically and socially. *Friends* recognise that school trips are a key part of the school curriculum. The diverse and high-quality trips on offer mean that teachers can create experiences that enhance pupils’ classroom learning, adding opportunities they may not otherwise have, particularly in the case of some of our more complex need students. It promotes the importance of allowing children to connect with the outdoor world, and the powerful and inspirational lessons to be learned by getting children outside.

Some funds were used by Key Stage leaders to purchase school leaver hoodies.

Friends worked with Post-16 staff to assist with the leavers’ prom in June 2019. It is envisaged that we will continue to support this venture, with funds being used to hire a limousine, a photo booth and a ‘mocktail bar’. A big thank you goes out to *Walkabout bar* in Lichfield, for providing us with staff on the night to help prep and serve the ‘mocktails.’

We have held some social events for students that have included a craft night, a Halloween disco and multiple film nights.

The key events for families so far this academic year have been the *Curry and Quiz Night*, which raised over £1000, and an amazing Christmas Fayre that raised a further £1300. *Friends* plan on holding a Bingo Night this term and our first Summer Fayre in June.

Our events not only raise money for the school, but they allow parents, carers and students to socialise together and build friendships.