

## **Edwinstree School Association Annual Report 2022**

This is the first Annual Report of the newly reformed Edwinstree School Association (ESA).

### **Spring Disco**

After the restrictions of Covid, the ESA were finally able to hold their first event in May 2022, a Spring Disco. This provided the students an opportunity to mix, socialise and have fun with their peers. It was the first real chance for many of the students to mix with different year groups after having to stay in year group bubbles during the covid pandemic. It was a learning experience for all the parents supporting the event too. For many it was the first time they had been into school past the reception area! Working with the teachers present, much was learnt about the logistics of safely recording students in and out of the event as well as the practical side of where to access electric and water supplies. £1120.25 was raised at this event.

### **Pre Loved Uniform**

The Spring Disco was the first opportunity parents had to purchase pre loved uniform. £31.00 was raised but more importantly the idea of parents being able to donate items and purchase other items was introduced, in order to reduce waste and reuse clothing. Over the year a total of £291.80 has been raised by selling at parents evenings, the specific sale event and at Christmas late night shopping.

### **Musical Production**

It was on a glorious summers evening in July that the ESA supported the school's musical production of "The Pirates of The Curry Bean" selling refreshments to the audience and taking donations. £220.66 was raised through refreshments and £209.39 through donations, which is being held in reserve to support the next school musical.

### **Ice Lollies**

July 2022 was hot, hot, hot! Sadly too hot to safely hold Sports Day and invite parents to support their children in sporting activities. It was so hot in fact that if it was deemed unsafe or detrimental to a student's health to travel to school they were allowed to stay at home and complete distance learning. For those students (and staff) that were able to attend school the ESA sold ice lollies and raised £72.00

### **Year 8 Leavers Event**

This year the Year 8 leavers requested a camping experience as their leaver's event. Another glorious July evening, with tents pitched on the school field. The ESA provided snacks, drinks and a disco. With the restrictions of the Covid pandemic this school year had missed out on the usual Year 7 residential and Normandy trips. For some, this was the first time sleeping (although not everyone slept) away from parents for a couple of years. By all accounts both students and parents enjoyed the experience! £281.23 was spent on this event.

### **Stargazing**

The first event of the new academic year gathered students and parents in the school grounds on 21<sup>st</sup> October for an evening of Stargazing. Once again the weather was not in our favour! The ESA had arranged for a fantastic expert – Jerry Stone who was

able to keep us entertained and educated in the comfort of the school hall. Four Edwinstree students (along with adult support) practised their hospitality and numeracy skills selling hot chocolate and marshmallows raising £75.53. Such was the feedback that we propose to repeat this event, hopefully gazing at the stars for real!

### **Christmas Concert**

1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 we welcomed students, staff and families of Freman College along with the Edwinstree family for a great night of festive musical treats. What a great way to start the festive season. Hopefully Edwinstree students were inspired to keep practising (or learn a new instrument) by the talent of the Freman students.

Two of our Stargazing event student helpers requested to assist once again along with a new face. £161.44 was raised through selling refreshments and donations. It was the first time for us serving warm mulled wine and a non alcoholic alternative and we have definitely learnt lessons on how to make this a more slick operation for next time.

### **Christmas Disco**

The evening of 15<sup>th</sup> December had the school hall filled with loud music and joyous students showing off their dance moves. £649.46 was raised at this event.

### **Christmas Hot Chocolate**

Traditionally Edwinstree students have attended a church service at Aspenden church on the last day of term and then walked back to school via St Peter's Church in Buntingford where they could have hot chocolate and cake. The weather had given us frozen compacted snow and sub zero temperatures all week, so St Peter's Church wardens generously allowed us to serve hot chocolate and cakes inside the church this year. Thank you to all the parents who baked or donated cakes. The parent volunteers felt that the hot chocolate served was better this year but alas there was no squirty cream on top. Maybe next year we will get this event perfect! £101.94 was spent on this event.

### **Wildlife Area and Growing Garden**

The ESA have spent £708.88 this year on purchasing supplies to enlarge the growing garden along with new watering equipment. Aquatic baskets and compost has been purchased for the wildlife pond. We have also secured a donation from Dandara Home Builders to provide further equipment for the wildlife area and forest school. Follow us on Facebook for updates!

Many thanks go to all the teachers, parents and students who have attended and supported our events throughout the year. We raised £3548.18 and spent £2062.30 on advancing the education, development and wellbeing of the pupils of Edwinstree Middle School.