

## 2010 AGM & Quiz Night

On 8<sup>th</sup> October, the Friends of King's House School held another in its long line of legendary and sold out Quiz Nights (aka Fish & Chip Night) raising £3,500 for special projects for the school as well as £495 (from the Heads & Tails competition) for Rwanda Aid.

The theatre was at capacity for the fiercest of "fun" quizzes, diligently researched and fiendishly set as ever by Mrs Steel, facing teams of highly competitive parents and with the Senior Department Teachers looking to build on their winning run from last year...

Before the quiz started, the Annual General Meeting took place (all parents are automatically members) and Simon Osborne (Chair of the Friends Committee) reported on the successful events and activities that had taken place in the previous 12 months, raising £14,500, and the fact that the Friends had been able to donate £17,000 for special projects outside the normal school budget. The biggest project this year had been the completion of the Astro turf in the playgrounds of the junior and senior departments, and future ideas for 2011, included specialist music technology, including (Apple Mac's and music composition software), improved lighting in the theatre, the purchase of violins so that all Year 2 boys could try a musical instrument for a term, and possibly new cricket nets at the King's House Sports Ground.

The AGM & Quiz Night is the first event in the school year for the new parents at various stages of the nursery and school, and has long been a fantastic icebreaker for them, as well as an informal and fun night for 13 tables of parents and two of teachers. As well as fundraising, the objective of the Friends is to improve the atmosphere of the school and create informal opportunities for contact with the teaching staff and for friendships to develop between groups of parents. This year certainly was a hit on both scores!

Mark and the kitchen staff, together with Sarah Johnson and Elspeth Lorriman, produced a delicious meal including the traditional fish and chips and a highly tempting chocolate brownie selection. The bar under Tom Fussell's expert leadership did a roaring trade all night (the ice-bucket-o'-beers delivery service was a notably successful innovation this year!) and the markers and quiz mistress were more than equal to those paying £10 for the privilege of challenging an official answer!

The proceeds from the Heads and Tails competition, as mentioned above, went to Rwanda Aid, and former head Neville Chaplin reported back on how the £495 raised will be spent. He said, "King's House has been so generous to us in many ways, from fund-raising to teacher training. Our next big project is to build a village for street children. There are hundreds of children living rough because they have been rejected by their families (second husbands not wanting previous offspring, just not enough food to go round, etc). If we provide shelter and food, they can go to school and have a chance to earn a living in due course, rather than turn to crime."

It just remains therefore to thank everyone who attended for their generosity and their great contribution to the atmosphere and success of the event; to thank the Committee for their hard work on all fronts from iPod mastery for the music round to waitressing, from early set-up to late sweep-up. Apologies to those on the waiting list who couldn't be there (especially from the Nursery), we would have loved to fit you all in, but keep a look-out for next year's event and you won't be disappointed!

Finally (in case you were wondering!), many congratulations to the Senior Department teachers who won again, by a narrow margin!

Daragh Fagan  
AGM & Quiz Night Event Organiser