

Friends of Down High NIC104603

Trustees' Annual Report for Financial Year 1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022

Address: Friends of Down High  
Down High School  
Mount Crescent  
Downpatrick  
BT30 6EU

### Trustees' Annual Report

Friends of Down High (FoDH) has continued to organise social and fundraising events for the families, children and former members of the school community. This group has maintained the link to the school with a large number of former pupils known as "Old Dunumians", as well as ensuring that the sporting endeavours of the school are also well resourced.

During the course of the 2021-2022 year, and in the context of re-emerging from the global pandemic, the Friends of Down High made vital contributions to promote and increase individual and collective knowledge. The Friends of Down High have continued to support the school to enhance learning and teaching, and the extra-curricular programme. The school replaced hockey goal posts and upgraded its fitness suite. Also, provision of more technical analysis equipment was acquired. The Old Dunumians were delighted to pay for a new trophy cabinet to display the school's many awards, and memorabilia. The school is moving to a new build on a new site and the main focus of fundraising will be focussed on providing state of the art facilities, upgrading some finishes, and also ensuring that the History and ethos of our school are encapsulated, recorded and exhibited.

In 2021-22, FoDH contributed to essential pastoral interventions such as additional counselling. We also provided money to allow leadership training to take place, and also for visiting companies and speakers to attend. The FoDH has also made significant contributions to the Careers department and has contributed towards the cost of Unifrog – an online resource that helps pupils to identify pathways through GCSE, A Level and on to university.

The Friends of Down High is a fundraising organisation, but an important part of our role is promoting social inclusion, developing community relations and providing a less formal channel of communication between the past pupils and staff, our parent body and the school. Many of the Friends of Down High help the school in many ways, including being involved in the Careers mock interview process.

At the end of the financial year, the Friends of Down High was in surplus by £96,958.97. A breakdown of this is made in the Receipts and Payments Account figures. There are no funds held by Friends of Down High that are materially in deficit at the end of the year.

Trustees:

The trustees during the year ended 31 July 2022 were:

Mr Dougie Marr  
Mr David Spratt  
Mrs Hilary McGuire  
Ms Lorraine Halligan  
Mrs Louise Healy

No other people served as trustees during the year. However, Lorraine Halligan gave notice in September 2022 that she intended to stand down, and it was agreed that Judith Gibson would replace her. Also, Louise Healy gave notice that she would stand down, and a replacement would be needed for her also.

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

Purpose 1: Improved relationships across the Down High Community

The benefit which flows from this purpose includes funding for additional resources for the school and links built with the local community.

This is demonstrated through an active Friends of Down High group that works in partnership with the school and engages support from staff and pupils, past and present, as well as parents.

This purpose does not lead to harm.

The benefit is for children at Down High School.

Charity trustees (committee members) are usually past pupils, past or current members of staff or parents of children attending the school and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.



DOUGLAS ROBERT MARR  
Chair, Friends of Down High  
20/4/2023

H McGuire  
E HILARY MCGUIRE  
TRUSTEE  
27/4/23