

## Friends of Down High NIC104603

Trustees Annual Report for Financial Year 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2023

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 2022-23 year, the Friends of Down High made vital contributions to promote and increase individual and collective knowledge. In close consultation with the Principal and teachers, support was given to fund a range of items and services that benefit the pupils.

Amongst the various areas that were supported, some funding towards the extra-curricular life of the school was included by providing extra coaching for the rugby, netball and hockey teams. Entry fees to sporting competitions in activities such as Dance, Athletics and Equestrian were also covered. Creative arts students benefitted from the donations made as they staged numerous music and drama productions.

All pupils benefitted from the contributions made towards activities ranging from the Year 8 induction residential to a Year 13 event which develops team-work, communication and leadership skills for students in the first full day of Sixth Form. Also, bespoke training was given to enhance the study skills of our students, and to develop our senior prefects as leaders. Pupil wellbeing was also supported through workshops from visiting organisations as well as through various end of year events.

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 £141649. 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 2023 were:

Mr Dougie Marr  
Mr David Spratt  
Mrs Hilary McGuire  
Mrs Shauna Mullan

No other people served as trustees during the year.

### **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 at the school which their children attend 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.

Shauna Mullan      SMullan      Secretary      28/5/24