

Minutes JRSA Meeting 6th March 6.45pm

Minutes taken by: Lucie Murphy

Attendance – 26

Apologies of absent – Ivis Williams, Charlie Baxter

- Introduction from Chair, Eve Daniels
- Update from Cath Smith:
 - Last Friday was National Offer day. Pleased to inform year 7 is full, 31 children in each class, 186 places taken, mainly with first and second choices. Lots of great feedback from people who have been offered the school and all should now have received a letter and welcome postcard. Now starting the process of getting to know new families. This Friday there is an online welcome assembly at 5pm and will commence the admission meetings on 9th and 21st May. JRSA will ask for help at the admission meetings.
 - Admission meetings – welcome families, complete admin. Real opportunity for parents to tell the school as much as possible about their children. Beginning of series of events in person and online to make the children and parents feel more confident about starting at the school in September.
 - So many children have put JR as their first choice this year.

This term also had two other information evenings: last week Year 9 options evening and 6th March subject meetings with parents. Celebrating results of mid years and thinking about options for KS4.

- Mid-Year Assessments – reports have been structured in line with parental feedback ensure they make sense and are easy to read and understand.
- Year 11/13 students – mid exams and students are working really hard.
- Year 12 Parents Evening – really positive feedback about the experience the children are getting.
- Interviews for prospective Year 12 applicants – 700 people applied!
- Cultural Day/Evening - organised by Miss Bivolaku and a committee of students plus the JRSA. Children were allowed to wear non-uniform if celebrating their cultural heritage. Evening was a real celebration, children dancing and talking about their countries and a delicious food fest. Expecting this to be an annual event moving forward.
- Parents Forum – very good discussion with small group of parents on how the school can engage with parents. Statistically proven that good engagement between school and home results in better outcomes for children. We discussed how we keep parents keep engaged with what goes on at school. Thinking about a number of ways the JRSA and school can work together to get parents meeting each other and the staff. Piggybacking social elements on to school events eg: information for KS4 evening, with informal social mixer offering support from parents with lived in experience.
- Annual Summer BBQ – this should have a good focus on welcoming new parents and providing an opportunity for meeting new people; we can work more on how this is best achieved.
- By the time the children get to 6th form, there is an opportunity for parents to get engaged with the school again. Particularly as there are always new children arriving in Year 12 so we can push for parental engagement.

- We should capitalise on the wealth of experience and skills within our parent group and arrange for them to provide career talks, interaction and advice.
- Discussed identifying those parents who are willing to talk to other parents and set up a “buddy system”. This will help to welcome parents and enable them to feel more confident about attending events and having someone to liaise with.
- We should monitor event attendance so we can identify who is coming to event. This will allow us to pinpoint who is NOT coming and enable us to work out ways to engage them.
- Messaging from school to parents - the timings could be better scheduled, particularly for the more negative messaging. It is important to understand the impact on parents.
- We should look if we have proper representation at each event.

AMBITION FOR THE SCHOOL Cath is passionately ambitious for the school and the children. We are arranging workplace and University visits to inspire the children and to ensure they see a range of options available to them.

- University offers are still coming in and there are some great opportunities ahead which is really inspiring the Year 13s to work hard.
- Year 12 – working with the children who want to go to competitive Universities and study competitive courses (medicine, veterinary school etc) to make sure they are on a level playing field with children from selective and independent schools.
- Events in PSHE and English – encouraging children to think, discuss and debate to encourage them to deepen their thought processes. We now have a “Fortnight’s Big Question” across the school– can we as parents, have that debate at home? Important for children to know how to speak in front of people as such a crucial life skill so we are really developing oracy in Year 10.

Cath happy to answer any questions.

1. Question: one of our parents has offered to donate towards water fountains. Please could they have an update?

Answer: We have 3 quotes in (for 7/8 water fountains). Trying to find the right places for them. A supplier has suggested in-setting in to walls so now we need to get re-visit the quotes. The plan is for 2 on each floor and 1 by the sports hall that students are able to fill a bottle under without flooding the floor! Once we have water fountains, the school will stop selling bottled water in the school. This is to reduce the amount of plastic waste.

Donations will we set up through PayPal, JustGiving and GoFundMe. Button on JRSA website.

2. Question: when do all the University offers come through?

Answer 16th April is deadline for Universities to get back to students with offers. Clearing starts in August. Lots of promotion for apprenticeships too post exams.

3. Question from Sandra: a friend not successful in securing JR despite it being first choice.

Answer from Cath: waiting list, lots of movement (children move to independent or grammar). There is also an appeals process too – the school works with an out-of-borough independent

appeals panel. Distance from school can be overriding factor. Appeals days already booked in for this year and the panel will decide if a child should be allocated a place. The year is already full so this will involve going over roll. There are 186 places already allocated which equates to 31 children in a class and we already have extra desks and computers in classes to accommodate this.

4. Question: When is 6th form offer day?

Answer: Children will get conditional offers but have to get grades, 22nd August is GCSE results day and that's when enrolment takes place. 150 places with 700 applicants. Current TJR Year 11 students progress automatically subject to grades.

Financial Update from Eve:

- Ivis sends her apologies as working late.
- We have donated just over £6k to the school. We haven't raised a lot so far this academic year as the main fundraising events are still to come.
- The Hardship Crowdfunder of £3000 was spent at Christmas so now all received funds are for the school bidding pot next academic year.
- Application for the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund – a big thanks to Sam Woodgate for completing the bid for the edible garden grant process. Voting deadline has passed so we should hear soon if we were successful.
- New bids in from teachers that have been agreed on by Trustees:
 - Year 11 welcome day – 2 days. Celebration tea party/BBQ. JRSA will pay towards it.
 - Contribution towards cost of Pride Passports for Year 7.

HAF (Holiday Club at Easter)

- Intro to Lucie Murphy – Lucie provided a summary of the Holiday Food & Fun Bid (HAF) which she has applied for. Fully funded camp for 11-16 year olds on 2nd – 5th April at the Maze Hill Building Lecture Theatre. Focus on fitness, food and fun. Engagement is key so JRSA and school to help spread the word for eligible families. The camp is free for all FSM families. There is also a camp for 5-11 year olds running at Halstow Primary School for families with children across both age groups. Trish to introduce Lucie to Avni to promote the camps on social media.

Quiz night:

- Trish updated on the next fundraiser, the annual quiz night which will take place on Friday 22nd March 7pm – 9pm. Similar format to previous events and Mr Garvey and colleague will be the quizmasters. Sam Woodgate to help Trish with the questions. Tickets to be kept at same price as previous years (£6 per ticket or £30 for 6 people). There will be a food offering and bar/raffle. This year there we will have a "Chilli Night" (veg/meat options) and accompaniments. Eve will make coleslaw, Will Knight to make veggie chilli and Trish to make meat chilli. Need as much help as possible so please come forward if you are able. Raffle prizes gratefully received. Communication important to encourage families to get teams together. Tickets on sale at end of this

week on Academy platform but also on the night. A really fun night and will hopefully have student and teacher teams too.

Thank you to Sandra for organising the alcohol license with RBG.

Cath will donate a few bottles for the raffle. All other donations to be left at the school office.

JRSA WhatsApp groups:

- Eve summarised our comms re: events etc. Great way of being a part of it all and ensures someone is only part of a group/event they want to be involved in. Just need to forward on your telephone and you will be added to the appropriate Whats App group to aid communication.

Companies House:

- Trish update on trustees. Neil/Ruth stepped down and will be removed from system. Lucie/Sam stepping up. Trish holds the account with Charities Commission – system up and running tomorrow so she will deal with then. There are 7 trustees on the committee but a wider group of 200 parents who are ‘Friends of the JRSA’. Anyone keen to join the database, please add email to the chat or send directly to Eve. It is fully GDPR compliant.

School trips:

- JRSA also accompany the staff and students on school trips or drive the minibus. The next trip that is scheduled is the Sky Studios Trip with Mr Duncan and Year 8. Need a few parents to volunteer. It's 3.30 – 9pm and will need to travel to West London. Volunteers do need to read safeguarding policies and JRSA need to carry out some admin including DBS check. Trustees also need to fill out all this paperwork. Eve will implement.

Primary School Ambassadors:

- Good to get in to the schools and ask the schools to identify parents who could serve as ambassadors (those who have children at TJR and the primary school).
- Lucie Murphy to act as TJR Ambassador at Halstow Primary School. She confirmed there has been lots of positive comments made by parents whose children were awarded TJR for this September. The initial comms has also been well received.

Half Marathon:

- Trish confirmed all 5 places have now been allocated.

Car Boot Sale:

- It has gone a bit quiet but Eve does have someone to run it. Cath/Eve to discuss with Foundation re: permission to use the site. Maze Hill playground will be perfect site for it. Do we need to tell RBG? Eve/Cath to discuss separately once permissions in place.

Thank you from Eve. Please email the JRSA if anyone has any questions/concerns/compliments.