

## **JRSA Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Introduction by Co Chair Eve Daniels, apologies for technical issues

In attendance – 40 people attended; Livy Gibbs sends apologies

Introduction to Cath and Dr Taylor Mullings

Cath Smith introduction, invite to put questions in the chat group for her to address at end.

- This half term has been successful. School is full in each year group for the first time in 7 years and now have waiting lists and people appealing to attend the school.
- Our results were really pleasing, Year 13s – culmination of their time at the school. Whole range of apprenticeships and universities.
- Amazing qualifications but also amazing progress for all.
- Stories that need celebrating, particularly people who've overcome lots of adversity.
- Started this term with a cycle of parent information sessions. Strong attendance and positive feedback.
- Open sessions for parents interested in the school - 4 sessions were overbooked. 170 parents at each morning session (maximum we can accommodate). Wide range of questions asked. High levels of concern about shrinking catchment area.
- 800 people at open evening, so lovely to hear all the positive feedback relating to activities, guides, feel of school.
- Positive feedback about the community feel of the school, calm classrooms and lessons.
- Maze Hill – 240 6<sup>th</sup> Formers – bustling with students, maturity of students – great feedback.
- Ms Smith listed the members of SLT and their roles. She also confirmed that a full staff list is available on the website alongside photos. A child at secondary school has a lot of staff involved in their care and it's nice to be able to put a face to the name. Link to list of staff will also be posted in weekly newsletter
- Curriculum detailed on website so parents can see what their children are learning.
- There is lots of info on website, most questions can be answered.
- The parents are very important to the school and it's great to be able call on as parent volunteers. Quite a process to clear everyone to volunteer so if anyone would like to volunteer then contact Cath Smith so she can put us in touch with HR to carry out Enhanced DBS etc.
- Volunteer opportunities include:
  - Drivers – involves coming in for an induction with facilities manager.

- Sam Woodgate (good example of a volunteer) – works across Debate Mate, library, Model UN.
- Exam help with scribing for exams – obviously cannot scribe for own child.
- Paid for roles such as Invigilators and midday supervisors.
- Always looking for midday supervisors to help during the two lunchbreaks
- Parent communications group meetings with Cath over the year to share ideas on how to improve the communication to parents.
  - Last year was to discuss the way in which the school shares data from assessments etc and the way parents are delivered the information and how this can be used to celebrate achievements.
  - Home learning – what is best communication method. Satchel, Student Planners etc.
  - Each year, United Learning send out a parent’s survey – benchmark answers against previous years and other UL schools.
- Lots of parent information evenings are the diary – some are from 3<sup>rd</sup> party companies offering advice to parents eg Drug awareness online sessions for parents, this was done in line with workshops children are taking part in during PRIDE days.
- Recruitment process for new HT – shortlisting was this week, a number of interested people have been shown around the school, interviews next week with Governors and UL team, student and staff panels.
- Transition and hand over period – Cath is working with someone who was Director of Education at UL, Dame Sally Coates, and she is in once a week, getting to know the school well and year 11 and year 9 particularly.
- Others involved to manage a seamless transition are:
- Katie Gillam – Regional Director – works at Paddington Academy as Co Head – has a strong working knowledge of the school.
- Ben Antell – Director of Education – spent a day at the school talking to students and staff.
- Subject Advisors visiting the school regularly talking with Heads of Departments etc.

### **Intro to Dr Taylor Mullings.**

Responsibility for pastoral aspect of school, he was in a similar role at Pimlico Academy and Haberdashers in Lewisham.

Behaviour, Attendance and Belonging – priority to ensure standard of behaviour in school is high, aiding students to avoid DFL/Reflection so they can participate in learning and do

well. Teachers can then help the vulnerable children which is difficult if there is noise and disruption.

Thinking about routines in school and making them common practice.

Attendance – issues across country since pandemic. Key relationship between attendance and outcomes.

School should be a good place for the most vulnerable, can help with mental well-being and ensure they are protected and safeguarded. Thinking how we can intervene quickly when families are struggling

Dr Taylor Mullings will support the school's DSL to ensure the right mechanisms are in place to protect children.

The aim is to ensure children feel part of the school, are happy and want to participate.

Dan Garvey working on extra curricular activities, reward systems and character education so children have a sense of belonging.

How can we extend that and take it further? Build strong student culture – making contribution to school and wider culture. What is expected of them, what they expect of us. Types of language we use – narrating things positively. How we talk to students to inspire them. We want children to hear lots of positive messages about what they are doing right and that we frame things correctly – pride in school and uniform. Recognising and rewarding students for the little things so that children feel successful.

Following instructions of staff by using praise, we need to celebrate successes.

Dr Taylor Mullings is now moving to the area and is looking forward to working with professionals in partner agencies and getting to know RBG.

- **Culture of Learning and Behaviour Policy**

Working with staff and students to ensure they have good routines to instill good habits for learning.

Work a lot on praising children, lots of positive framing.

Big focus on calm classrooms, pledge of disruption free learning so children can focus on learning, so this is their priority.

Looking closely at what we do and how we can achieve it.

- **Eve Daniels – welcome to the JRSA**

Brief overview of the organization as a charity raising money and funds to support things that UL do not fund. But we do not fund things that should be part of UL's remit.

Introduction to committee – 8 busy parents as trustees but all the parents are part of the JRSA.

Intro to trustees –

Sam – stepped up as trustee and now co-chair. At the end of this academic year someone else will co-chair with Sam for a year when Eve steps down. Each Chair will sign up to two years, overlapping with a successor and sharing responsibilities.

Ivis – Treasurer for a few years now – her daughter in Year 9. Manages the bank account and all finances and does the accounts every year.

Intro to Lucie – Company Secretary, daughter in Year 8. Works across the community in fundraising and outreach.

Intro to Trish – media and marketing – one son left at the school in Year 12.

Sandra – youngest child has now left to go to University. This will be last year on the JRSA and advises across the whole organisation.

Charlie Baxter – works at the school – 4 children at school – and similarly to Sandra, advises across the organisation.

Livy Gibbs – last general committee member but gives apologies today.

### **Events**

- Eve promoted second hand uniform sale coming up on Tues Oct 22nd after school. Asked for donations of used uniform in good condition. The sale raises cash for the JRSA and provides a stock of uniforms for pupils should they need it.
- Bingo night is also coming up on Friday 22nd Nov. A good event for younger years, especially yr 7.
- Eve also announced plans for a new event, John Roan Has Talent date to be confirmed in January. Livy Gibbs will lead on this event with the Music Captain and Mr Barker
- Support at the next parent information evening for year 7s to make tea and coffees and great parents

### **Playground**

Eve introduced Rachel Warne, who has a daughter in year 7 and her ideas for the playground.

Rachel talked about OPAL, Outdoor Play and Learning, and Make Space for Girls which are organisations that train teachers to introduce structure into the playground space.

The idea is to provide a more shared space experience in secondary school playgrounds. Initially implemented by adults, but eventually child led.

Some local primaries are already using OPAL and they are trialling in some secondaries. A meeting with these companies is the next step between Rachel and Daniel Garvey

### **Fundraising**

Eve took us through what the JRSA has funded over the past year.

- £8500 was donated for water fountains, with the JRSA moving to paper cups at all events to reduce single use plastic.
- The hardship fund, led by Lucie Murphy, raised £3000 in 3 weeks.
- All in, we raised **£17,272** with some gift aid still to be claimed, making over £21k raised in the last academic year.
- The JRSA are now calling for bids from all teachers and department heads and will award £10k this year to the pot. The Bidding application forms have now gone to Cath Smith to circulate amongst departments and SLT

### **JRSA Comms**

Finally, Eve showed us the various WhatsApp groups we use to communicate for events and volunteering. If you would like to volunteer, you should email Eve, on [evedaniels@thejohnroanschool.org.uk](mailto:evedaniels@thejohnroanschool.org.uk) 7 new email address were collected from today's meeting to join various group, taking part in the school community

### **Questions from Parents**

Cath answered a few questions that came up in the chat.

- If you have a query for a subject, parents should first contact their child's teacher. If you have a general query, you should contact their form tutor.
- Cath said toilets are regularly maintained, they get a lot of use and sadly they do get damaged but they are repaired quickly and cleaned several times daily
- lockers are not always a great solution for students' kit. Clothes are left in them and are forgot. Cath will address these queries more fully at the next meeting.
- Dr Nick Taylor-Mullings addressed a query over students with ADHD and their belonging with school culture. He is hoping to ensure good relationships between these students and their learning coaches and tutors. He is hopeful that their tutors will be able to better advocate for them.
- The school is also looking at a change in the use of language. Eve asked how teachers are being trained in this practice.
- Dr TM explained that was through deliberate practice of consistent language between teaching staff and narrating good behaviour.

- Dr TM also spoke about looking at better non-invasive strategies to refocus students without disturbing the flow of the class.
- There are regular lesson visits to identify teaching staff who need additional support.
- Eve asked whether class movement breaks every 30 mins might help to refocus a class.
- Dr TM is considering how students can do this, again, without disrupting lesson flow or losing control of class behaviour. He is concerned that use of time out cards can mean students sometimes miss a crucial part of a lesson.

The lottery was pulled. Winners were Sara Davis 1<sup>st</sup> prize and NW&SK Turner 2<sup>nd</sup> prize

Nest meeting date: December 11<sup>th</sup> 6.45 on TEAMS