



**THE JOHN ROAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER AT 6.45PM**

- Apologies received:** None
- Attendees:** JRSA Committee and Trustees  
Cath Smith – Principal  
Parents/Carers – over 50 virtually attended
- Agenda:** Welcome  
Introductions from Committee  
JRSA Presentation  
Update from Cath Smith on the school term to date  
Finance Update from Ian Peppiatt  
Q&As from Parents/Carers  
AOB

Eve Daniels and Neil Kennett-Brown, Co-Chairs of the JRSA kicked off the meeting by introducing themselves and the committee. The committee/trustees in attendance each gave a brief summary of their role in the JRSA and children at the school.

**JRSA PRESENTATION**

Eve presented an overview of the work the JRSA undertakes as a PTA and parent voice in the school. She outlined the roles within the committee and the importance of the JRSA as a link for communication between Parents, Teachers and school in general.

Fundraising for student rewards and activities above and beyond what the school can budget for is a very integral part of the JRSA. Eve confirmed that this year a number of diary dates have been agreed with Cath Smith for fundraising and parent events across the year.

- All JRSA virtual meetings via teams for the school year - October 13th, November 23rd, January 25<sup>th</sup> for **AGM**, March 22nd, May 25th, July 12th
- Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January (as a registered charity this is a legal obligation) Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 23
- Pre-Worn Uniform sales on the last Tuesday of every half term (at Westcombe Park) at 3.15 till 4.15pm
- Bingo Fundraiser – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November (this is a new date as rescheduled due to World Cup clash)
- Quiz on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- BBQ on Friday 23rd July 2023

- Other input from JRSA will include parent support at School events such as opening events, concerts, raffles. Dates of live open days and parent events are in the diary
- Ideas for fundraising are not exhaustive and suggestions from parents/carers are welcome.

### **SCHOOL UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL (Cath Smith)**

Cath provided an update on school news, progress and events since the start of the new school term in September:

- **Open Evenings**  
Cath communicated how successful these were with a record number of prospective parents/carers and students attending. There was lots of very positive feedback and great energy and enthusiasm from JR students who were hosting tours and welcoming guests across the two evenings. Members of the JRSA committee and other parent volunteers were available on the night to help, provide refreshments and answer any questions. The flapjacks for visitors on the night were well received!
- **Yr13 School Captains**  
Cath advised that Bella and Maxwell have been voted Yr13 student captains. Both have progressed through the school from Yr7.
- **School pupil intake Yr7 and Yr13**  
The Yr7 intake this term was 190 students and 119 for Yr12 -this number is the biggest cohort so far for the 6<sup>th</sup> form, with many students having started John Roan in yr7 and staying on to study A levels and BTEC qualifications.
- **Results**
  1. **GCSEs**  
A slide presentation showed positive uplifts in English and Maths GCSEs which were above the Greenwich average, slightly below UK average but a great and continuous improvement being made.
  2. **Progress 8**  
Progress 8 is a type of 'value-added' measure that indicates how much a secondary school has helped pupils improve (or progress) over a five year period. The school is showing really encouraging signs of improvement particularly in English and Maths where significant leaps has been achieved since 2019.
- **Student retention to Yr12**  
Many more students are now staying on to attend the sixth form for A Level and BTEC qualifications, the majority of who will have started at the school in Yr7.

- **Staffing/Curriculum information**

Although historically there has been a turnover of teaching staff, Cath reported that the feeling now is that teachers are very settled and passionate about their subjects. For parents/carers needing to contact any teaching staff or senior leadership team, all names and contact email addresses can be found on the school website.

Curriculum information can also be found on the website for all Key Stages.

Cath was pleased to announce that there is a new **Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator** so this important enrichment for students will continue as normal, the school hopes to now go through to Gold award and not stop at Silver

- **Parent Information and Meet the Teacher evenings**

These evenings will continue as a hybrid of on site and online dates across the school years as will SEND and Centre for Autism information evenings.

- **Parent insight and help**

1. Cath put out a request for parents to volunteer as part of a working group that will be looking at how better to report to Parents and Carers.
2. If parents have a skill or idea for enrichment clubs, the school will definitely welcome any new clubs at school for students to join. DBS checks would need to take place beforehand. Parent volunteers are also greatly appreciated for school trips.
3. There are a number of children at school where English is their second language. If any parent/carer has experience or holds a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) qualification and can spare an hour or two a week to form a small group lesson to help develop English language skills, help is needed and very welcomed.

- **Questions from Parents**

- **Is the school behaviour policy adjusted for SEN children.**

There is behaviour criteria for SEN students and adjustment are taken into account when necessary.

- **There was some parental concern over the volume of detentions/DFL incidents and that students were nervous about getting a detention or ending up in DFL for forgetting a pen or whiteboard. Also what the difference was between detention and DFL.**

Cath outlined the guidelines for DFL and reassured parents that data is checked frequently to understand reasons for detentions or DFL are in line with school policy. A reminder of the updated DFL/Detention policy will be included in a forthcoming weekly newsletter so parent/carers and students are fully aware. The routines such as line-up are in place partially to support students in getting things right and not to catch them out.

- **Volume of homework**  
After half term there will be a new homework policy introduced and monitored which should be much more manageable for students, is consistent across the school and that students are not overloaded, especially the younger year groups.

- **How are incidents of bullying dealt with.**  
Cath advised that the school has a zero tolerance policy to bullying and outlined the school policy. Staff are always visible and contactable at lunch and other breaktimes. There are channels available for students to talk and report something and any incidents will always be followed up and action taken to deal with the matter. Parents should always reach out to Heads of Year who will interact immediately involving all those concerned.

Neil Kennet-Brown, JRSA Co-Chair thanked parents/carers for their questions and to Cath for her responses, to move on to the next part of the agenda and keep the meeting on time.

- **Department Bids for Funding by JRSA**  
Eve advised that 2 bids have been received recently from departments, and the funding was agreed by the committee/trustees. Going forward it was proposed that there would be two bidding dates per year, in November and March. A working group will be created to manage and agree bids for funding, all those on the bidding committee should be part of the board and will meet separately, after the November and March meeting. Contact Eve Daniels if interested to being part of this.
- **Vacancies available on the JRSA Committee**  
There are vacant roles for Secretary and Treasurer. Eve advised if for anyone interested to taking on these roles to put their name and email address in the Team chat box.
- **Finance update**  
Ian Peppiatt the current Treasurer gave an update on JRSA finances and money fundraised across the year. There is currently a healthy £17k available. Ian also advised that it would be beneficial to change to a new bank account in the near future, the new treasurer should take on this task.
- **JRSA School Lottery Winner Draw**  
The winners this term were SJ Miller and SJ Robson who both won £52 and £26 respectively.
- **AOB**  
Although not raised at the meeting it should be noted that the JRSA Annual Return is due to be completed and sent to the Charity Commission. The deadline for this is 30<sup>th</sup> November. Ian Peppiatt will action this.

The next meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.45pm via Teams.