

## JRSA MEETING - 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

Attendees: 30 respondents. Including Eve D, Cath S, Lucie M, Ivis W, Sam W, Charlie B, Sandra S and Livy G

Apologies: none

### **Update from Cath Smith:**

- School very busy with staff recruitment for academic year 24/25 and GCSEs and A Levels
- Sports Hall set up for the exams. Practical exams – art, textiles, PE and orals all taken place already and written exams start this week.
- We are in the transfer window for teachers – the time when they can resign and apply for new roles for September 2024. The school has had some positive interview days. Students may mention that ‘new’ teachers have been test teaching them as part of their interview process.
- Parent Working Group has met again – a good discussion was had about ways we can engage parents – people want different things based on ages of child or background and knowledge. One suggestion is for organisers of student workshops to do online versions for parents (online safety, mental health etc, AI – benefits and ensuring students do not utilise it too much). We also discussed the diarising of parents evenings to ensure there is not too big a gap between the annual opportunities. Year 8 parents evening has only just happened which means around 1.5 years between their first one in Year 7 and now.
- Talked about other ways we can develop opportunities for parents to meet and socialise with each other.
- Cath is keen for a parent buddy system. Form posted in JRSA chat to start the ball rolling. Looking for parents with experience of the John Roan to link up with someone new to school.
- Couple of opportunities coming up for JRSA involvement including the Year 6 admissions evenings.

Cath gave a summary of the wealth of opportunities offered to students including –TFL, Burberry HQ, House of Parliament, HMS Wellington, Royal Institute, Sailing at Ahoy! trips to Morgan Stanley, Model UN. These opportunities are offered free wherever possible, but it is becoming harder for the school to cover these costs. The school is looking at ways parents who can afford to, to contribute towards the cost of the trips.

- Tomorrow years 7 – 10 will have an internet safety workshop and Year 12 – diversity and inclusion workshop.
- Braithwaite booked for 5 weeks - Foundation have helped fund a lot of places.

- Eve and Cath working on ways to promote to parents and engage them with information so they are aware of what the students are accessing.
- Cath would love to appoint someone to engage with Mr Garvey so they can share the news of all the opportunities with the parent group. Unfortunately, the school cannot commit a resource to this but would love if it if someone could help manage the socials with Trish and help cascade the details to the parent group.
- Conchy volunteered to help with social media.

#### FINANCE – update from Ivis.

- Ivis to give update on grant information and remaining funds.
- £7000 available (including cash in hand)
- Most grants have been paid but unclaimed funds for RE department and St Johns First Aid Course. Subscription for software - £335 – still not been claimed.
- Year 11 – put forward for boat party - £600 not been paid out

£5000 left in the bank and it is crucial we build up the kitty as JRSA does not have enough to fund anything going forward.

#### Update from Eve Daniels:

There are a few events in the pipeline.

- BBQ 12<sup>th</sup> July
- Big Half marathon – 5 runners who operate their own fundraising pages. JRSA can share these sponsorship page with parent group. Generated just under £2000 last year (22<sup>nd</sup> September). Funds raised for Big Half to be spent in this academic year.
- Pay Pal Giving Account – JRSA will automatically receive 20% on top of any payments generated by PayPal.
- Partner with Go Fund Me.
- Cath and Eve discussing trip fund / hardship fund which can be done via Go Fund Me or Pay Pal Giving (buttons for website, invoicing service, marketing ideas). Now need to work with Cath re: messaging and how the money can be ring fenced. Cath would like a meeting at school with finance team – Ivis, Eve etc so we can work out best way of being able to do this.
- Lucie / Sam to continue helping with grants.
- Ivis needs some help with finance.
- Ivis and Eve also in discussion with HMRC to claim retrospective Gift Aid.
- EDIBLE GARDEN – Sam put together a very strong grant but we were not successful on this occasion. The feedback was very positive, and we have been encouraged to re-submit the application in the next funding round as our application was very strong. The funds available for our ward were very small this year which affected the outcome for us.

- Lucie / Sam researching alternative grants and funds available including the arts funding suggested by Ivis. Grants include: Morrisons Foundation / Awards 4 All Tesco, Merkur Casino, Stronger Communities.

#### Update on BBQ:

- Trish updated on this annual event outside at WP site playing fields.
- 5pm – 9pm BBQ, music, bar, raffle but open to new ideas for activities.
- Looking for volunteer to run the BBQ as Trish will be away this year. This role is to head up a team of people. Trish confirmed she can do comms and set up ticketing. Charlie has offered to help.
- Need help with cooking – number of different BBQs to ensure diverse and inclusive range of cuisine. Parents make salads and puddings for sharing dishes. Introduction event for new year 6s so really good to engage this parent group.
- Dage offered to do rice and chicken

#### UNIFORM Sales:

- School now allocated a room for JRSA uniform store and we can use the washing machines at school.
- These uniform sales take place on the last Tuesday of every term. We really need volunteers to help with uniform sales (2.30 – 4.00pm) helping people to choose uniform and fold clothes.
- Next uniform sale will be after exams have finished.
- We also help going through lost property – at the end of year all remaining lost property sent to charity and we are given a payment per bag of clothes.

#### LOTTERY:

- 121 tickets sold. Sandra to call numbers
- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize 111 Sheila Winstanley (parent of 6<sup>th</sup> Form student)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £26 – 51 – Michael Freeman (part of parent group alumni who still donates to the school)

#### Other events:

- New year 7 admissions evenings – tomorrow and 21<sup>st</sup> May. – admissions paperwork meetings
- Eve has two volunteers for each event but needs more. Great to speak to the year 6 parents and answer any questions.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July – PM – information evening for parents – Maze Hill Hall
- Eve and Cath to discuss if we can add social element.
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 7 taster day

- Year 5s Principal Tours July – all to promote - 150 places available on each day – talk to parents on WP steps and organise for current students to do tours.
- Primary Ambassadors to share.

AOB:

A parent asked why year 10s do not go on work experience?

Cath explained that schools have struggled since Covid, and it is particularly hard to get worthwhile placements for all the children. Invariably the students who are successful in their placements are those whose parents are high level professionals with lots of contacts. Furthermore, some students were placed in challenging circumstances which made for a negative experience and resulted in them being sent back to school. Employers are also increasingly reluctant to take 14–15-year-olds and the quality of placements are not positive for the students (not treated like an adult etc).

The school questioned before covid if it was a valuable week away from education and covid gave companies an employer reason to not engage.

The school made the decision to do it for Year 12.

Nevertheless, the school is looking for more opportunities for students to go into a variety of different workplaces as part of trips and visits so that they have their eyes opened to a variety of different experiences and options. Experiences to date include: Eze taking 30 children to Burberry HQ and Year 8s visited Sky Sports.