

## Minutes JRSA 24/01/24 AGM

Attendees: 42 people attended the meeting with 7 new email sign-ups for the database.

Apologies: Sam Woodgate

Introductions by Neil Kennett Brown – Co Chair. He announced he will be stepping down as Co-Chair but will continue to support JRSA as a volunteer. Neil Chaired the first part of the AGM to vote new Trustees in and announce those stepping down.

### Stepping down

- Neil Kennett Brown
- Ruth Cassallas

Thank you for all their commitment. Ruth Cassallas – stepping down as Company Secretary due to changing work commitments. Neil is stepping down as his daughter is now coming to the end of her time at John Roan and Neil wants to make room for new parents on the board, he will still be supporting the JRSA over the rest of the academic year but not in the role of Co Chair

### Current roles

- Eve Daniels stands as Chair
- Ivis Williams Treasurer
- Livy Gibb, Sandra Smith, Trish Bullen and Charlie Baxter will remain in their roles as Trustees.

### New Trustees standing

- Lucie Murphy – stepping up into the role of Secretary. Parent of child in Y7 and vast experience working within the local community supporting charitable organisations with outreach to support the vulnerable and fundraising. Lucie is stepping up as Company Secretary. Lucie spearheaded the 2023 Hardship Fund Crowdfunder which provided 30 families with £100 Aldi voucher to help with the cost of Christmas.
- Sam Woodgate – stepping up as a Trustee – lots of experience as a Trustee for HER Centre, and Millennium Primary School and fundraising experience including for Oxfam Japan. Sam will be supporting the JRSA with grants and fundraising bids. She has already applied for Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund for the JR Edible Garden Project.

Apologies – Sam was unable to join the meeting this evening due to prior commitments, but a statement was read out on her behalf.

VOTING: unanimous vote to accept Lucie and Sam as Trustees.

No questions raised at this point.

Livy Gibbs continued to chair the meeting on behalf of Eve Daniels (as she had lost her voice) Presentation to summarise the work of the JRSA over the past year.

Below a summary of the presentation

- JRSA is a registered charity governed by board of volunteer trustees.
- Main aims to raise financial funds to enhance the school's offering and support school, teachers and families.
- JRSA is growing year on year and now has a mailing list of approx. 200 families but always looking for more parents/carers to engage. Anyone interested should provide contact details for Eve/Lucie to action.
- **JRSA Communications:**
  - JRSA section in weekly newsletter and a section in the termly newsletter. Staff newsletter
  - JRSA section on school website which includes a calendar of events and ways to support the school.
  - We use Whatsapp groups to communicate on different events.
  - Socials: Facebook, Twitter (X) and Insta.
  - Lucie/Eve manage email and database.
  - Parent Comms Panel – who work between Cath Smith and JRSA and School.
- **Summary of events calendar, fundraising initiatives and profits:** Summary of ways JRSA raised a total of £5877 in 2022-23, made up of the following events:
  - Vitality Half Marathon: £1769 (10 runners)
  - Inaugural Bingo Night: £243 (80 people)
  - Quiz Night: £940 (90 people)
  - Summer BBQ: £1195 (200 people)
  - ParentKind (an organisation supporting PTAS) run a cash raffle which raised £159
  - Commissions from Partnerships: Amazon Smile £89, Easy Fundraising £173, School Lottery £901
- **Additional support**
  - JRSA provides hospitality for school run events including 6 in-person Parent's Evenings
  - Year 6 Induction Days,
  - Music Concerts and Achievement Evening - Volunteers always needed for these commitments.
  - Year 6 Open Evenings – JRSA runs a passport trail to reward children for engaging with the different school departments. It's a good opportunity to talk with the parents and children. Offering this warm, welcoming response is an important part of building community around the school.
  - Culture Day – families are welcomed to school in traditional cultural wear, option to bring a dish of food and celebration of EID.
  - Lost Property Day & Second-hand Uniform Day raised £346 for the school but most importantly supports families who are experiencing financial hardship. Looking for more volunteers.
- **Investment in the school** - A summary of investments made by JRSA (can be seen in full on the presentation) in 2022-23 academic year a total of £6686 was given back to departments through bids. The JRSA reach out to senior leadership and heads of years and encourage them to bid for what is available and in December they decide which bids to support. They analyse criteria including how many students and ages

will benefit, has it been funded before, could it come from an alternative source such as the Trust, the Foundation, or an external body.

- **Moving forward to this academic year September – December 2023:**
  - Christmas Concert – JRSA ran the Bar and raised £165
  - Achievement evening for Year 11/13 from previous academic year receive awards for attainment and contribution. Profits £107
  - 2 x Second – Hand Uniform sales - £205 raised so far
  - Christmas Tree Sale – local business donated £5 profit per tree sold. Only sold 5 trees. Is this worth pursuing again?
  - Inaugural Christmas Hardship Crowd Fund – overwhelming generosity from the school community. Raised £3120.
  - 30 families received £100 Aldi gift card. It only took 1 week to reach the amount.
  - Christmas Run – Race for the students to raise money for the Don McMath Foundation and the DEC. 73 different donors £1398. JRSA were instrumental in facilitating this.
  - Regular donations – one off gifts via Parent Pay – raised £246 across the year. £246 across the year.
  - December Issue of PTA Eve Daniels wrote a fabulous article on how we spend our money.
  
- 6 meetings across the year, have held 3 already this academic year. The next ones are on: 6.45 – 8pm (online meetings, everyone welcome)
  - 6<sup>th</sup> March
  - 8<sup>th</sup> May
  - 19<sup>th</sup> June

Agenda is set by the Board of Trustees. We discuss the latest news and Cath Smith always attends and parents can openly ask questions and hear what is happening at school sharing areas where people can get more involved.

### **How we are spending money this year:**

JRSA have allocated £7000 in this years bidding pot. Decisions are based on how the bid adds value and how it supports the school values. We aim to meet as many bids as reasonable even if this sometimes means downgrading the award amount for each bid. (A full list of our bids and awards so far can be seen on the presentation). In December we agreed on just over £6000, the remaining investment will happen in March.

Fundraising is very low up until Christmas where the focus is on supporting the school and building community. The second half of year is time to punch big with our donations.

Things happening this year

- Edible Garden Project – design being agreed. First round of applications for Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund. Practical use of space at Maze Hill, Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- 6 places paid for Big Half Marathon – September – we have 5 runners so far.
- 1<sup>st</sup> teas and coffees event 31<sup>st</sup> Jan Y13 Parents Evening
- International Evening – coming up on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- Lost Property clear out on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb -need volunteers to help sort and bag up.
- Uniform Sale 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, last Tuesday of term – 45 mins volunteer session for parents/children to purchase good quality second hand uniform. Cash/card accepted. Please donate good quality second hand uniform
- Quiz Night – 22<sup>nd</sup> March
- Summer BBQ – biggest volunteer drive. Lots of spaces to fill.
  
- **Overall Growth:**
  - Fundraising is up on last year.
  - Have allocated our first round of funding.
  - Idea for a Car Boot Sale in playground.

A reminder that the JRSA has an open door policy and pride ourselves on being welcoming and community focussed.

### **UPDATE FROM CATH SMITH:**

Cath reinforced how much the JRSA do for the school community. She has worked in a number of schools and the parent community at John Roan is phenomenal. The school is privileged to have this additional money from the community instead of having to ask directly to families to help fund additional activities and equipment who may not be able to afford it.

**The Best In Everyone:** Cath confirmed she has 2 members of SLT walking around the corridors and going into classrooms in the Westcombe Park building at all times and always 1 in Maze Hill site. This is to make sure the teachers are being supported in delivering their lessons and the children can get on.

What does she and her team to look for in the school:

- Are all children encouraged and engaging?
- Are teachers utilising cold calling?
- Are the children using their mini whiteboards? This enables teachers to ask the whole class the same question and can determine who is understanding what is being taught and who needs more support. Making sure the teacher has the confidence and courage to explain things again.
- Make sure teachers are asking questions that deepen a child's knowledge.
- Make sure the teachers are working around the classroom, ensuring everyone is engaged and learning.
- Is the teacher really using the board effectively at front to model how to do something

### **Occupancy:**

- John Roan is full to capacity with all years apart from 10/11 are over-roll. We also have a waiting list for all year group. This shows that people want to come to John Roan and we are being asked to take more children who really need it.
- We tend not to take too many casual admissions in Years 10/11 because it is hard for a child to come in at such a crucial time, but we are taking children who have just arrived in the UK and need support. This is tough for them as English is not always their first language.
- Number of children who want to come to us for year 7 this year – we are hugely up on the number of children who have put us as 1/2/3 on their applications.

### **Parent Survey:**

- Much more positive about extra-curricular offer.
- Numbers up on those who would recommend us to others.
- Down 1% on feeling welcome in the school – how can we do this better?
- 89% feel our children are safe at school. Cath worries about the 11% who don't feel safe and will work on this to find out how this can be changed.
- 88% really good at letting parents know about important information.
- Provision for SEND much stronger than last year.
- On the whole, things are much stronger than last year on the executive summary.

Cath looking deeply at the information and ways to which to improve and will do the same with staff and student surveys.

**Summary of Year 10/11** – GCSE choices and explanation of A8 Attainment Scores (difficult to compare with other schools if some are selective)

A8 buckets 1. Basics 2. EBAC 3. Other

1. English and Maths – count double – best score
2. Top 3 scores from sciences, history, geography or history
3. Top 3 other scores

Government formula - Uses KS2 primary school scores and compares against other kids at same level

- P8 score shows how a child has progressed.
- P8 0 means all children have progressed as expected.
- P8 negative – below expected.
- P8 positive – better than expected.

Over the 7 years with us the school is making sure that they are doing everything they can to enable the child to get to the destination of their dreams.

**Year 13s so far this term:** 46 students have started to receive University offers.

54 offers from Russell Group Universities.

- 1 student Oxford offer

- 1 Vet school offer (highly competitive)
- 3 Cambridge offers

**Volunteer and paid roles vacant:**

- Drivers/help on school trips/helping in the school
- International Women's Week – help needed
- International Evening – student-led event
- Paid Role – exam invigilators – really important role to support students.

**Ideas bought to Cath for improvements:**

1. Installation of water fountains which will allow students to full up water bottles to reduce plastic. WP have established 6 places for these and have investigated a number of products and are almost at the point of purchase. MH site now has water available in water jugs which is easier to accommodate as there are fewer students.
2. Parent Consultation Group – please email [JRSA@thejohnroanschool.org.uk](mailto:JRSA@thejohnroanschool.org.uk) or [cath.smith@thejohnroanschool.org.uk](mailto:cath.smith@thejohnroanschool.org.uk) if you want to join the group or have any ideas to improve the school. Particularly keen to hear from Y7 parents about the Primary/Secondary transition.

You can always email any questions you may have as it's not possible to answer everything at each meeting.

**Final plug for forthcoming events:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> February International Night – 5pm to 7pm at MH site. Catwalk, international food, music and presentations. A celebration of the diversity at John Roan.
- 31<sup>st</sup> January – Year 13 Parent's Evening – help needed with teas and coffees. Vicki and Eve will be there and an important way for the JRSA to engage with the families and support the school.
- 6<sup>th</sup> February – Uniform Sale from 2.30pm at WP site.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Quiz Night at WP site from 7pm. Get in touch if you'd like to be involved.
- Lottery Draw – we will do 2 draws at the next meeting (2 x first prizes and 2 x second prizes)

Minutes taken by Lucie Murphy.