Minutes from JRSA meeting October 9th, 2019

Introductions – Mandy Warwick (Treasurer) has officially stepped down as her child has left the school and welcome to Neil Kennett Brown has joined to support Eve Daniels as Co-Chair.

Attendees: 24 parents and Cath Smith (Headteacher)

HEADTEACHER’S UPDATE

A level results - great top grades, significantly up from last year. GCSE’s - results reflected hard work after unstable years - pleasing improvement, still have some way to go but we are on the increase as predicted. Eng/Maths - significantly improved. In recent years there have been pupils who received no qualifications at all, but not this year. Some pupils need a better understanding re: entry qualifications for Sixth Form, The John Roan School sets a high threshold of GCSE results to enter the Sixth Form.

Academisation – From 1st September The John Roan School is officially with ULT.

Staffing - almost full, only a few long term agency staff left to recruit.

There are a couple of staff on long term leave of absence.

Q: Is this the end of the strikes? (Parent yr. 10)
A: Early indications are YES. We can’t strike about academy status; it would have to be about something else and there are no signs now. School feels much more settled.

Q: Are staff happy? (Parent yr. 12,9,8)
A: Teamwork seems more positive. Improving behaviour – all staff are implementing the new policy. Staff seem happy with new processes.

Q: Last year there were negative issues with staff about ULT taking over, are these teachers still at the school? (Parent yr10)
A: Staff generally ok, some have left the school (some have moved onto other academies). Any staff starting in September should have made their choice and be on board re: ULT. Lots of ULT staff in school to support (not heard anything negative from JR staff re ULT).

Q: How are ULT actually supporting the school? (Parent yr9)
A: Last June - support from subject advisors: Eng. Maths, Science, History, MFL were in school working with Heads of Departments (HOD’s) sharing resources etc. Cath has only heard positive from this. Staff have welcomed the resources. ULT Hub - lots of free resources available
Q: School in deficit/potential cuts? (Parent yr. 11)
A: Yes, there is a serious deficit. Have looked at structuring timetable, not having surplus staff, smaller yr7 (2 classes down. 148 students not 180).
Cath is looking at everything to save money - any surplus staff now are helping with SEN. EHCP pupils will continue to get their support.

Q: How were the open evenings?
A: Well attended, better numbers than last year.

Q: When will you know numbers? (Parent yr11)
A: Will get indications Feb/March.

Q: Are numbers down? (Parent yr. 8)
A: Pretty stable across all year groups. Year 11 is full, some places in the other years.

Q: Noted that local schools advertised heavily to promote places for y7. (yr7 & 10 parent)
A: School can’t afford to spend on advertising, but there has been very positive feedback from open days and social media PR. Feedback from a Parent of a year 6 child: massively encouraging open day visits, enthusiastic staff, school felt fresh & positive. Making positive links with local primaries - Invicta School doing their Christmas show at JR and Josephine Okokon has been working with a number of primary schools by visiting with pupils to encourage year 5 & 6 pupils to look at the school.

Disruptive free learning (DFL) - Warn, Move, Remove - it is working as a whole. Yr11 are finding it hard however they are learning. All staff are following it, very positive about simplicity of system. Teacher must have a conversation with pupil on the first disruption, then move the pupil as a second warning and then on the third warning the DFL team are called and they are removed. The parent is contacted on the day a pupil is referred to the DFL unit. They serve a 60-minute detention after school and 6 periods in the DFL room where they continue to learn Maths, English and Science. TA’s are now spending more time with learning support instead of behaviour support. SEN: special consideration taken & treated on an individual basis.

Cath shows people around school with much more pride now.

Q: How is attendance/punctuality?
A: Higher than average number of absent families, so attendance is difficult to manage but punctuality has hugely improved.

**HOMEWORK**
More homework is being set for yr11 - lots of detentions given out for not doing it. Sorting out a homework timetable for each year group. Should be ready after half term. Cath wants to aim for all homework to be set on Show My Homework.

Never a next day homework to be set. Science – there is a lot set, especially Triple Science, Mr Thomas is looking at this.
TREASURERS REPORT

£4574 in bank, plus about £600 cash from BBQ. Lottery raised £1200 last year. Therefore we have about £5000 to give out. Letters will go out to HOD’s/HOY’s to apply for bids. Drama have already asked for funds for a stage. JRSA have already paid for a display board for Maze Hill in the corridor for Humanities. £50 has gone to Ms Sumner for Year 10s on their careers fair to the O2, JRSA paid for pupil premium children to go to fair by cable car (most of them had never been on it).

CHARITY STATUS

Trish has taken on the charitable status of the JRSA. Working closely with Parent Kind (a PTA support network to help PTAs). We want to have a charitable status so that the JRSA can get gift aid from all that is raised and apply for more substantial grants to support the school. 3/4 way through registering for charity status. Need to open a new bank account and appoint a board of trustees. We have all those that are interested in becoming a trustee and in the meeting collected all signatures.

PR FOR SCHOOL

Livy is happy to step forward to run a subcommittee to deal with PR and to make links with primary schools, info evenings etc. Visits from SLT have already been made to Halstow, Meridian, James Wolfe and Sherrington. We have a small MARCOM team forming which include Livy Gibbs (year 10) PR, Trish Bullen (year 7&10) Twitter, Hilary Lawrence (year 8) and Caroline Knight (year 8) – Facebook. The marketing team will communicate separately and keep up the positive PR

EVENTS – We need an Events Manager, someone to take on events and drive them forward. We have lots that will help to make them happen but no one to lead them. We have lots of ideas if anyone interested in taking this forward?

IDEAS: Quiz night, wine tasting, table tennis competition, pizza night, BBQ, Christmas concert, raffles, talent show, and fun run.

School uniform – we have been collecting uniform, our cupboard is filling up nicely. This enables the leadership team to help those that need uniform and it will also become another revenue stream for the JRSA as we can sell the uniform at the next parent evening. To do: organise the cupboard and sort out what we have, buy a rack to we can hang up the uniform on display. Message to parents – If anyone has old school uniform, they can hand it in to either reception desks in a bag marked JRSA and this will be passed on to our cupboard in Westcombe Park.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 3rd December, 6.45 at Westcombe Park Building