

Merchant Taylors' Boy's School Parents' Association

**MINUTES**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

**Staff Present**

Deiniol Williams	Headmaster (Chair)	DWI
Sarah Maitland	Parent Liaison Co-ordinator	SM

**Parents:** Anne Smith, Leanne Bovill, Claire Porteous, Caroline Gladwin, Penny Hignett, Malik Al-Nasir, David Finnegan, Amanda Griffiths, Kathryn Jarvis

**1. Apologies**

Diane Evans, Sarah Lapsley, Helen McLoughlin, Sui Chan, Rachael Randles, Tricia Blyth, Caroline Sullivan.

The Director of Finance and Operations, Mrs Lynn Hill, was not able to address the meeting due to illness and sent her apologies. Mrs Hill will attend the meeting in April instead.

- Zak Mansuri and Harry Scott (2 lower sixth pupils) presented a case to the meeting for financial support towards a trip that they (as well as 2 other MTBS pupils) have been selected to attend between February 6<sup>th</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup>. The boys explained that they, along with 4 girls from MTGS, are the sole representatives from the UK to be attending this model G20 summit. The PA were extremely happy to support the boys and offered £250 each – a total of £1000.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes from the previous meeting, having been circulated and agreed, were signed off by the Chair.

**4. Chairman's report:**

DWI talked further about the collaboration that is growing between the Sixth Forms at both MTBS and MTGS. The Governors and senior leadership team believe that further collaboration will bring greater efficiency and opportunities for boys and girls alike. Collaboration with the Sixth Form timetables will not only increase the range of subjects available to our pupils but also the flexibility of subject choices. This collaboration will not only take place within the Sixth Form timetable but also involve other year groups on external trips and activities. Greater collaboration allows for a sharing of specialised staff resources, skills and time as well as a cross fertilisation of ideas between both schools. DWI emphasised that the schools are not going to lose their USP – a single sex education – but are offering a compromise.

DWI confirmed the details of the new Headteachers – Mrs Claire Tao (MTGS) and Mr David Wickes (MTBS).

DWI informed the meeting of a recent presentation to Governors and the 4 Heads by Mr Russell Speirs from RSAcademics. RSAcademics has studied 75 independent

schools, of a variety of types, throughout the UK. Russell Speirs talked about 2 of the 10 trends that came out of that study – Marketing and Development and Fundraising.

DWI told the meeting that our current Director of Marketing is moving onto a role at the University of Liverpool and a new Director is currently being recruited. It is one of the roles of marketing to enhance effective relationships with our fee paying body. Collective research has shown that the quality of education, cared for pupils, strong communication, leadership of the school and value for money have most impact on the happiness of fee paying parents. It was also noted that first impressions are absolutely vital in recruiting families and pupils and the importance of recommendations by word of mouth can never be underestimate.

DWI then gave details of several recent school highlights and achievements:

- Speech Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December with Nick Hewer was a great celebration of all the pupils' achievements during the academic year 2016-17. The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside was also in attendance.
- A Cadet from the Royal Navy, Petty Officer Cadet Jack Bostock, has been selected to be 1<sup>st</sup> Sea Lord Cadet (2018). This is a huge accolade for Jack and the schools' CCF Contingent. (The First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, is the Royal Navy's professional head and Chairman of the Navy Board. He is responsible to Secretary of State for the fighting effectiveness, efficiency and morale of the Naval Service, and supports the Secretary of State in the management and direction of the Armed Force)
- Our Chemists are Regional Champions in the Top of the Bench competition and moving forward to the national stages.
- The closing date for the Upper Sixth UCAS forms was 15<sup>th</sup> January so not all offers have been received however the Oxbridge process completes earlier. From this year's cohort, the statistics are superb:
  - 17 Oxbridge Applicants
  - 12 of those Applicants secured interviews
  - 7 Applicants have had offers – almost 10% of the year group.
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#### **5. Report on nearly new uniform/lost property system:**

SM thanked Penny Hignett and Helen McLoughlin for their energetic and kind help with clearing the Lost Property room and helping to initiate a new system. DWI presented Claire Porteous with flowers to thank her for the great work she has done with the lost property.

#### **6. Events for the Spring Term 2018:**

SM discussed the 2 outside speakers visiting the school this term:

Dr Kathy Weston – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March – to talk to parents on: 'future proof your child: how parents can boost children's life chances and secure their success'. Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm with the presentation beginning at 7pm in the Williams Hall. Complimentary tickets to be available via trybooking.

Mr Ben Heason – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March @2pm. Ben is a professional rock climber and inspirational speaker and demonstrates that, by coupling hard work, focus, planning

and teamwork with positive thinking and a determination to succeed, just about any goal is attainable. Complimentary tickets to be available via Trybooking.

**7. Any Other Business:**

DWI gave the meeting advance warning about the Merchant Taylors' Company Joint Schools Concert on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at the Birmingham Symphony Hall. It would be great to fill the Hall and we have been asked to sell 250 tickets, so please watch this space for more information on this event.

**8. Date and Time of next meeting – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April in the Ian Robinson Sports Centre.**