

HENSA meeting 18th November 2019

In attendance: Clare Hosford, Susie Beasley-Suffolk, Catriona Irvine, Michele Midwinter, Jules Macdonald, Kirsty Lang Vere and Jonathan Parr representing the school, plus several other HJS parents.

Apologies: Samantha Hewlett

1. Welcome - Clare (CH) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and welcoming other HJS parents. The HENSA Committee introduced themselves to the group and Jonathan Parr (JP) explained his role as HENSA-teacher liaison.
2. CH outlined the role of HENSA and its funding commitments to the school. This includes regular financial commitments and the funding of special projects, such as the playground revamp, which has been undertaken recently.
3. CH explained the events currently in the calendar for the 2019/2020 academic year. These include:
 - The Circus, which will be held in conjunction with Westbury Park School this year on the HJS field over two evenings, Fri and Sat night during Sept 2020. We need to look into the possibility of running a circus skills workshop during or just after the school day to maximise the learning opportunities available during the visit.
 - Halloween disco will go ahead for Years 3 and 4 as usual next year.
 - Organisation for the Christmas Bazaar is in full swing. An extra event will be added this year prior to the Bazaar - a Wreath Making evening - which is being organised by Kirsty Lang Vere (KLV).
 - The Quiz Night this year will be held on 31 January. A team is being headed up by Lucy Bendon.
 - The Beer and Bingo event that ran last year will be considered again but the team is unsure whether it will go ahead.
 - HENSA will also support the Spring Music Evening and May Fair events.
 - The Summer Disco for Years 5 and 6 will be organised as before.
 - The feedback from Festival last year was very positive and the team are looking forward to building on that success this year.
 - The Year 6 events last year were problematic in terms of finding parent volunteers. It was agreed that these need to be planned earlier this year.
4. Communication between HENSA and the parent body was discussed. KLV suggested that Class Reps be encouraged to come along to HENSA meetings, so that communication channels are kept open. On the positive side Classlist now has 306 members, a large take up by parents.
5. Susie Beasley-Suffolk went through HENSA's accounts. She pointed out that they showed a significant decrease which was due to the May Fair contributions going directly to the school for the playground revamp, instead of coming through HENSA's accounts. Fundraising events made a profit of £9799.94.
6. There were two main expenses last year - the playground fund of £10k and the Shine lunchtime support of £4.5k. The school has requested a further £10k this year for more playground improvements.
7. HENSA would like to thank Devinder Whelan for her work arranging sponsorship for HENSA last year. She has also secured more sponsorship for the Christmas Bazaar and the Quiz Night this year.
8. Also thanks go to Alison Briggs for all of her help and accountancy services.

9. JP extended the school's thanks for the money HENSA raised for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the playground revamp. The money donated for Phase 3 will be used to improve sports facilities in the playground in the form of a multi-use sports and games wall. Other items on the school's wish list for the next academic year are funding help with an Art Enrichment Week in May, topping up the Recommended Reads list for all classes, replenishing the musical instruments, adding headphones and lego compatible bricks to resources and ensuring the Year 6 Life Skills Workshop can go ahead.

10. A new Chair for HENSA is being urgently sought as CH is stepping down after two fantastic years in post. KLV said that she would be prepared to take on the role as Acting Chair in the interim but it may be useful to define the role a little more so that parents who are interested know exactly what is involved.

11. The elections for the rest of the committee were held and everyone agreed they were happy to continue in their roles. It was put to a vote and the entire committee were reelected.