

Friends of John Masefield High School meeting: 24th October 2018

Present: Donald Henderson (partial attendance), Helen Henderson, Sandra Dudley, Laurence Brown, Rainey Provins,

Apologies: Vicky Baker, Maria Burgess

The Meeting Minutes from the last Friends meeting on 19th September 2018 were circulated and agreed.

Laurence Brown (LB) reported on recent meeting including one with Andy Evans (AE). AE has asked FJMHS to focus on longer term goals and building relationships and after further discussion with Wendy Bradbeer(WB) and Julie Kyle(JK), it was felt developing theatre facilities in the school would be a good long-term strategy. Specific projects FJMHS could support might include the following:

- Lighting rig (improvements to/replacing)
- Radio mics (replacing and incrementing existing stock)
- Tallescope (to allow easier access for lighting/staging adjustments)
- Raked seating – this needs wider consultation regarding logistics, location, storage, value of funding in the short term. If developing a new drama/theatre complex might be a possibility in the longer term

It was decided by all the best approach would be to meet with JK to discuss priorities and practicalities: **Action: Rainey Provins (RP)** to arrange meeting with JK.

LB suggested a tie in with local theatres such as Ledbury Market Theatre or Hereford Courtyard would be helpful to increase capacity, give access to improved facilities and increase awareness of JMHS. **Action: RP** to add this to her list for discussion with JK.

RP showed a logo suggestion to tie in JMHS's 40th anniversary with a push to develop theatre and drama facilities in the school. The logo was well received with the suggestion it could be further developed to tie in with JMHS branding and the option to have the elements layered so the branding theme could continue after the 40th Anniversary had finished. It was suggested we look at Fiver or trying to investigate a parent with a graphic design help who would be able to help. LB also knew a graphic designer who may be able to help. **Action LB** to investigate further.

RP mentioned the lower link on the FJMHS page on the school website. **Action Donald Henderson (DH)** to fix

There was also discussion around whether there should be a 40th Anniversary page on the JMHS/FJMHS website. It was decided to put together copy for both a vision statement and also 40th Anniversary celebrations. **Action: LB and RP** to work on developing copy.

Those present discussed the forthcoming presentation of donated funds from the Coop. Sandra Dudley (SD) thought the amount could be £3,500-£7,000, based on her fundraising work with the Ledbury Poetry Festival. Before these minutes were published the total given was confirmed by Vicky Baker as £5,908.61 – fantastic!). We have been invited to a celebration day on 24th November. Many present at the meeting said they may be able to attend but it was felt appropriate that someone from school should attend and also maybe musical or theatrical presentations/props along with a sheet of information on how funds will be spent so any FJMHS people attending could speak knowledgeably on the day (Vicky Baker may be working on this already) **Action: RP** to add this to her list for discussion with JK.

LB suggested a press release re. the 40th Anniversary would be useful. **Action: LB** to look into this

Helen Henderson suggested it might be worth circulating the minutes of our meetings to AE. **Action: RP** kindly offered to pass a hard copy on to.

It was also agreed that it would be helpful to progressing the work of FJMHS if we could have school staff involved in FJMHS meeting and also possibly sixth form and arts prefect involvement. Roma Farnell Assistant Head Girl was suggested as she is very involved in dramatic arts at JMHS. It was also suggested we involve ex-pupil Ben Mowbray who is currently working in Performing Arts and knows the school well. **Action: RP** to investigate

LB suggested we look into merchandising opportunities. **Action: SD** to investigate

LB asked if we had any links with overseas schools as this may be a development opportunity. **Action: LB** to investigate? Link with overseas school -check with school

The forthcoming Dance Show on 15th November at 7pm was discussed. No one was sure if FJMHS had committed to attend or provide refreshments. **Action: RP** to add this to her list for discussion with JK.

LB felt there should be more presence for FJMHS/JMHS activities on the school calendar. **Action: LB** to send suggestions to WB for discussion and to check for overlap.

The Carol Concert was discussed briefly so that preparations could be made in good time. **Actions: RP** to get JK to approve refreshments at carol concert and will advise HH. **HH** will seek approval from the church and advise SD. **SD** will obtain licence

Next meeting suggested for: Tuesday 20th or Thursday 22nd November starting 6.30 or 7.00. Please let me know best times and dates and I will check availability with Halo/WB.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Lottery
- Social media