



Friends of the Mead Meeting - 18th November 2021

Attendees:

Catherine Openshaw (CO), Gemma Wilson (GW), Sarah-Jane Churcher (SJC), Matthew Grogan (MG), Rachel West (RW)

Points discussed:

Financial

- MG noted that we currently have just shy of £23k in the bank, which is quite a high number. A chunk of this is earmarked for the gym, but it would be good to have some additional proposals. Historically, FOM would sit on £7-£10k.
- MG shared that he is awaiting confirmation regarding the costs for the gym refurb - last communication notes £20k in total. CO noted that Michelle Coveney will follow up on the quote for the gym, and revert. // *UPDATE: Post the meeting it was confirmed that the quote for the gym is £32k, with £20k requested from FOM, this will be raised for approval separately*
- SJC noted that the theatre trip to 'The Prince & The Pauper' at Trinity Theatre has been confirmed for 14th December, this will be funded by FOM
- MG shared that he is still awaiting the invoice for the sewing machine. GW noted that with this one and the 4 that have been borrowed from another school, we now have 5 on site. Not only can these be used for the after school clubs, but they are also very useful for costumes for the shows. The light boxes can also be used for multiple years, showing them to be a very good investment.

General

- SJC noted that we have both a new Head of the School, and a (mainly) new FOM committee, it would be very helpful for us to understand what is acceptable & not in advance of organising any future events. CO shared that it was solely Halloween which was/is an issue, as this does not fit within the ethos of the school.
- Regarding teacher involvement in events, CO noted that this can be on a volunteer basis only, teachers should not be expected to volunteer, or to pay full price for events at the school. Teachers already work a long day, any additional hours can be taxing, particularly at social events which lack the control/structure of the school environment. CO noted that for future events, the FOM committee & volunteers can be DBS checked by the school, which will allow the younger years to be included, without the necessity for teacher volunteers. These volunteers will also need to complete safeguarding training.
- "Fitness on the Astro" - SJC shared that this is proposed to commence in January. CO noted that it will not be possible to go through the school, entry should be via the side gate only. Also, from a safeguarding perspective, only parents can be included, and it will be necessary to have a list of their names in advance of the session. SJC noted that the trainer has communicated that she would like to work on a termly pass basis only, which means that we will have the same list of names per term.

- CO shared that the school are still actively recruiting a Marketing person, which will make comms with FOM more straightforward. However, for now, all comms should go to both CO & GW, ideally in advance of their regular Thursday meeting.