



London Christian School Parent Body Meeting Minutes

Monday 15 January 8:15am – 9:15am
40 Tabard Street, London, SE1 4JU

Apologies from Hina Radia, and Venetia Taylor (Graham Taylor attended)

Points from last meeting

Update on building next door

The tour of the next door building during the Christmas Market was well received. We have commercial tenants, and fundraising options for building development are being investigated. There is currently nothing further to report.

School meal update

The aim is to start in September 2024. Cost estimates should be available soon.

Winter coats

NCW is liaising with Kidz Biz, but pending the outcome of discussion our current uniform stands.

Bike hangar

We have been allocated a bike hangar. We are awaiting information of when this will become available and where it will be situated.

Fencing

Action: NCW will discuss with the fencing teacher whether it is better to carry on with this activity in school uniform or a PE kit.

ER communication

Information on the activities the ER children are involved in day by day is included in the weekly newsletter and where possible photos are shared in this medium too. Nicola has spoken to the Head of Early Years who is thinking of other possible additions.

Sports fixtures

We aim to appoint a full time sports teacher in the not too distant future in order to facilitate more fixtures.

Points for discussion

Christmas Market

This was a much enjoyed community event.

Succession planning. Principles for future leadership were discussed:

- To have two parents to lead the next market. Emma Wright is offering to be one of these. Kate Huang is happy to share her experience from this year and be available during the planning phase of the 2024 Market.
- Each year group to be allocated an area of responsibility e.g. baking, refreshments etc. with Parent reps to mobilise the parents in their year group.
- At the start of September 2024 there should be an early PB Christmas Market meeting

Use of space/ activities

- Sponge throwing was well received.
- Consider using the roof space for this next time to increase the flow of the market throughout the school and especially via the Y5 and 6 Enterprise stall.
- Add at least one other outside event alongside the Sponge throwing.
- Have a lively activity in each area e.g. biscuit decorating in the library to avoid some areas feeling dull.

Finances

- A new treasurer is needed for next year's market and a handover is required
- Method of payments is an area for further discussion. We could consider prepaid tokens, having a SumUp account, or increasing the float, as typically few people carry change. If we use tokens some items would be 1 token, others 2 tokens etc. Tokens could be sold in advance of the Market, possibly online.
- Prices could be higher for refreshments and baked goods than they were pitched this year.

Volunteers

- It was good to have badges to identify volunteers
- Next year's organisers should ask early in September whether 2023 volunteers would like to be involved again.
- Head's drinks and other social events are good opportunities to recruit volunteers
- For safety, it is essential to have two people on the door throughout.

LCS Children at the event

- Year 1s enjoyed going around on their own. It would be helpful for parents to prepare the younger children in advance by explaining what's on, prices and where to locate each of the stalls. Then the children can plan how to spend any money they have been given for the market. This information could be included in one of the newsletters beforehand.

Alumni visiting

- It would be helpful for the alumni to be given a sticker so that those on the door can identify them as being children who have the option to come and go as they please.
- Where they are acting as volunteers they should be given specific instructions.

Actions:

- Another Parent Body member to volunteer to lead the 2024 Market alongside EW, current ER rep.
- VW, current Y1 rep to liaise with FD to find out what is entailed in organising the financial aspects of the market, and confirm whether she is happy to take on the 2024 Market treasurer role.
- Payment methods at the Market in future. LE to liaise with key Market 2024 leads.
- LE to organise a date for the early September Parent Body meeting.
- Parent Body Market leads to recruit volunteers from early September 2024, asking previous year's volunteers first.
- Newsletter the week before the Market to include a section on Market information to enable parents of children in younger years to make the most of the event.

Other ways the Parent Body can be involved in school events throughout the school year

A school disco

This was suggested.

Action: NCW to consider

Sports Day hospitality tent

This would be for parents only, with tea and coffee, Pimms etc. and would be managed by the Parent Body who would source refreshments for it.

Action: Parent Body reps to discuss and liaise with NCW

AOB

The Royal Academy of Arts summer show

A suggestion was made to register LCS for this show so that children from year 4 upwards can make submission. It was noted that we already enter an independent school's art competition.

Action: KV will look into the feasibility of this.

Art exhibition week

A suggestion was made to augment this with art workshops, and to invite parents involved in the art scene to visit the pupils.

Action: NCW to consider

LCS Marketing

Miss Collett-White discussed the vision of having more marketing as well as the current excellent word of mouth to grow the school pupil numbers. Some ideas discussed: digital marketing using various platforms, actively seek Google reviews, flyers in nurseries. We are considering the main marketing messages which could include: a Christian education open to all; community; Bespoke education. There is apparently a perception that we are Full to capacity and/or we are only for Christians. We need to address that in our messaging.

A suggestion was made to raise awareness of LCS by having a stall at the Union Street festival, if this is happening this year.