



London Christian School Parent Body Meeting Minutes

Monday 6 November 8:15 am – 9:00 am
40 Tabard Street, London, SE1 4JU

Points brought forward for discussion

Christmas Market

Succession planning for organising the popular Christmas market was discussed. This year and last, the lead organiser has been a year 5 parent and it was agreed that someone in year 4 or 5 is best as they will have experienced several Christmas Markets. It was agreed that the Parent Body would meet in January to look back at how this November's event went and to plan forward. In the meantime, the Parent Body will reinforce Christmas Market messages via the WhatsApp parent groups.

The possibility of the Parent Body helping more at other events was mentioned, including a Sports Day hospitality tent.

Action: LE to arrange Parent Body date for early 2024.

Next door building

NCW gave an update. UK Christian Schools owns the freehold of the building next door to the school. The plan is to have tenants until the middle of 2025 and for LCS to then take over the site and enlarge the school's space. Fundraising will also be taking place to enable this. In the short term, a new staff working room is already set up and the plan is to move some storage and service functions into the basement of the new building. The two buildings are likely to be connected at key places to allow for movement between the sites.

The main drive is to increase the space for existing children, rather than significantly more children. Class sizes of 20 children in Reception to Year 6 are envisaged, in larger classrooms, and with space for Art, Science and possibly DT. We want a space where work can be left out and displayed and not packed away every lesson. We will aim for a second rooftop playground and much larger school hall.

Very few parents have completed the survey recently sent out to ask their views on the building development. The link has been resent in the 6 November newsletter.

Action: Parent body will send a WhatsApp message to their year group encouraging completion of the survey.

NCW to talk to JH about whether parents can see the new space during the Christmas Market.

School meal update

NCW explained. Acquiring the building allows us to take forward the request for hot meals at lunchtime, something 89% of parents in a recent survey were keen to see, and which will make the school more attractive to prospective families, as well as preparing children for Senior school where such provision is frequent. The company we are looking at has many years experience working in schools and provides safe allergen and gluten free options, including the way in which food is prepared and served as well as a varied menu. Pricing points will be carefully considered, and the aim is to start hot lunches in September 2024, or soon after.

There will be an opportunity for parents to taste the food next term. A selection of the staff and children have already had two tastings with the proposed supplier and everyone really liked it.

Winter coats

The parent body were shown a sample of a possible replacement for the current coat. Various other options were mooted such as having a warmer coat available for children in the winter, having a splash coat on site for rainy days, continuing with the current 3 in 1 coat, or specifying a colour and letting parents source their own coat.

Instrument lessons

The rationale for starting instrument lessons in year 1 was explained, including physical development and endurance in practice. NCW will talk with the music lead JMC about providing more information about provision on the website.

AOB

Cycling bay

This is in hand and we hope that the pavement will be extended out further and that there will be a place for bikes on this.

Fencing

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

Water bottles

In some classes these are now in a box at the back to save space on small tables and to save bottles constantly falling over/off tables. These will continue to be stored at the back of the classroom during lessons, with regular breaks when children will be encouraged to have a drink.

ER communication on activities of the day

Some parents would like more information each day on what activities their child has been doing. NCW will discuss with the Early Years lead. They would also like earlier notice of extra events such as the phonics workshop.

Clubs

NCW will review how the annual commitment to clubs operates and whether there should be a break clause. In general encouraging children to commit to their decisions is good education.

Outside sports fixtures

Current staff resourcing makes this difficult. For example, Nicola took out most of a day to take a small number of children to a fixture, which she enjoys and is beneficial for the few but is not sustainable. LCS is looking to recruit a full time PE teacher.