



# PARENTS' FORUM

12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018

11 parents attended.

## **Year 3 Shuffle**

Parents asked about the process and timing of the reorganisation of classes this year.

We intend to shuffle the three Year 3 classes going into Year 4, as we did last year. Although there was initially some anxiety, there has been overwhelmingly positive feedback from teachers, parents and children, once the children settled into their new classes.

Learning lessons from last year, we are adding in more opportunities for the classes to mix for activities before the shuffle is announced, and will plan in activities for the children in their new groupings before the end of Year 3. It is also proposed to organize a "tea party" after school just after Shuffle Up Day so that parents and children can get to know each other. HENSA will organize this, and will take the opportunity to sort out class reps for Year 4.

Communication about the shuffle this year will be better than last year, which was the first time we did this. Year 3 parents were informed before children started Year 3 that there would be a shuffle. Year 3 staff have taken on responsibility for organizing the transition programme from Year 3 to Year 4 and informing parents about relevant dates and activities. We feel it is important that children and parents are informed about their new classes on the same day. We will make sure that everyone knows how the new classes are put together. We have given very careful consideration to whether children could be offered a say in the process. We have consulted colleagues in other schools, who have found that it is not feasible to ask children to name friends they would like to be with, as it is impossible to guarantee that every request can be met. We will, however, make every effort to ensure that children feel involved and do not feel unfairly "done to".

## **Building plans**

The school submitted two bids to the Education Funding Agency for capital projects this year: one for the replacement of the top hut and one for the replacement of the heating system. Both were unsuccessful.

Governors have decided that the condition of the top hut is so poor that we cannot enter another academic year without addressing it. They have therefore decided to use the school's reserves to replace it with a modern, high specification modular building this summer. Whilst our preference would be for all classrooms to be connected to the main

building, this is the most cost effective solution, and the only solution that the school is able to afford without additional grants from the government or other sources. The new classrooms will be an enormous improvement on the current hut, and will last for many years to come.

We are taking the opportunity to address other maintenance and safety issues. We are increasing the width of the fire exit door from the Dining Hall and rebuilding the retaining wall outside the dining hall, which is currently collapsing. We will install steps that directly link the Year 3 classrooms to the Dining Hall, making access to the main building much easier, and in the future we may be able to raise money to put in a canopy, as we have done between the bottom hut and the main building.

We will also be installing a security fence around the perimeter of the top playground. This will have gates which can be closed during the school day, keeping children safer in the playground. It will prevent visitors from bypassing the school office, and prevent children from crossing the greensward at the front and accessing the car parks during the school day.

All this work should be completed by the end of the summer holidays.

### **Music and PE**

Following the last Parents' Forum, staff were pleased to note that parents strongly wish to make sure the school maintains a commitment to high standards of teaching and opportunity in PE and the arts.

We have appointed Mr Heath to be our new PE lead and Miss Slade to lead Music. Their role is to ensure that these subjects are taught to a high standard and that children have every opportunity to participate in tournaments, performances and other events, in school and out. They will work with school staff to ensure that they are well trained and confident to teach these subjects, and will also liaise with specialists that we bring in from outside. We intend to continue using trained sports coaches to deliver one of the two PE lessons each week in every class, and we are currently exploring the possibility of using qualified music tutors to similarly teach music in every class and to inspire and train our own staff. We will have more to say about this later this year, once our plans are finalised.

### **Curriculum and more**

We had a fascinating and thought provoking discussion about the nature of the school curriculum. Mr Barber has been asking pupils what they think they should learn in school, and the suggestions are very informative. Whilst the National Curriculum describes, in a very dry fashion, a list of skills and knowledge that the government wishes schools to cover, as an academy, HJS is free to design its own curriculum. The core subjects of reading, writing and maths are undoubtedly essential basics without which access to learning is challenging, but beyond that, the purpose of school should not be just to cover the national curriculum. Children have suggested on the one hand that we should be

teaching them how things that will be helpful in their future, and on the other that we should be teaching them how to get A\* grades so that they can get into university and get a good job.

Mr Barber presented a list of the children's suggestions, and invited parents to complete their own grid of "inspiring topics" for the school curriculum. There was much agreement in the room that one of the most valuable things school can do is to teach children to think critically and to develop positive, constructive relationships.

If parents would like to contribute to this fascinating discussion, there are a couple of ways to go about it:

- Attached to these notes is a copy of the documents we used at the meeting. Print off a copy of the grid and discuss it with your family at home. What would be the topics you would put into the school curriculum? How would you timetable a typical school week? Send any suggestions into Mr Barber via the school office.
- Joel Lazarus is interested in facilitating a discussion group, and he recommended some fascinating reading material. If you would like to know more, contact the office and we can put you in touch.

# THE HENLEAZE OFFER

Discussion document

## WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE, AND IS OUR OFFER FIT FOR IT?

April 2018

The National Curriculum describes the scope of knowledge and skills which children should acquire by the end of each Key Stage divided into 11 subjects.

**As an Academy, HJS is not required to follow the National Curriculum. We are therefore free to make our own choices about the content of our curriculum.**

All schools are required to teach RE and to make provision for a daily act of collective worship.

All schools should make provision for personal, social and health and economic education (PSHE) and all schools are free to include other subjects or topics of their choice.

National Curriculum subjects	In addition
English	RE
Maths	PSHE
Science	Philosophy for Children
Art	Life Skills (including cycle training)
Computing	Learning to learn (ELLI and Growth Mindset)
Design and technology	Staying safe (including E-Safety)
Foreign languages	
Geography	
History	
Music	
PE	

Topic Plan 17-18	Autumn	Spring	Summer
<b>Year 3</b>	Ancient Egypt	Brilliant Bristol	Awesome Ancestors
<b>Year 4</b>	Ancient Greeks	Earth Explorers	Roving Romans
<b>Year 5</b>	Invaders	Your Europe	The Rainforest
<b>Year 6</b>	The Americas	World War Two	Mysterious Mayans

## What would a curriculum designed by children look like?

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Personal development</b>
Robotics	Riding a bike	Independent work
Cooking and eating	Building dens	Philosophy
About the world	Touch typing	Stuff to be useful in your future
Europe and its Cultures	Movie and app making	Stuff that will give you A* in tests
Kings and Queens	Animation	How to be a teenager
Democracy	Navigation	How to be a mum or dad
War experiences	DIY	How to get a job
How things work	Shelter building	Careers
Prehistoric Creatures	How to stop burglars	Creativity
Under The Sea	First Aid	Imagination
Bugs	Sport	Designing
Animal Care	Boxing	Woodwork
Saving the Environment	Martial Arts	Hospitals
Global warming		Friendship
Recycling		Social skills
Astronomy		Common sense
The Solar System		Different Beliefs

**A topic plan to excite, engage, and equip children for the 2020s and beyond**

	<b>Autumn</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
Year 3			
Year 4			
Year 5			
Year 6			

## A productive week of learning

	<b>AM 1</b>	<b>AM 2</b>	<b>AM 3</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>PM 1</b>	<b>PM 2</b>	<b>PM 3</b>
<b>Mon</b>							
<b>Tues</b>							
<b>Wed</b>							
<b>Thur</b>							
<b>Fri</b>							