

'Coffee and Cream Cakes with the Headteacher and Menahel'19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

8.45 – 10.00am

Boardroom

**Meeting Minutes****TEACHER NOTICE PERIODS**

- A parent asked about teacher notice periods, if they are going to leave our school. Mr Sager informed parents that teachers have to give at least half a term's notice of their departure. That is statutory.

**RECEPTION HOUSES**

- The message was passed on that Reception parents are not aware which houses their boys are in. Mr Sager will ask the office to share this information with the parents.

**SINGING CONTEST**

- Parents said that boys are very excited for this.
- The school is already aware of several groups and that songs are being written.
- Mr Sager and Rebbe Roitenbarg said that there would be an external judge sitting with them.

**LOSHON HAKODESH**

- Parents are very impressed with this programme. Parents think it is fantastic and is being taught very well.
- Questions were asked about some of the structure of the programme, which the Menahel responded to. He explained how it works over a 3-year period.
- Menahel then thanked parents for the comments and constructive criticism as that can only help, moving forward.

**TRANSLATION OF CHUMASH**

- Discussion regarding the boys translating Posukim into Yiddish and English and how that connects to Loshon Hakodesh.
- Menahel and parents discussed amount of Posukim learned, with or without the additional Yiddish.

**YIDDISH**

- An extended discussion re. how much Yiddish there is in the school now, how much there used to be, impact on boys in high school and Yeshiva.

**YEAR 5 DAVENING GROUP**

- The Menahel informed parents that next term, Year 5 pupils would be invited to come to school for 8.15am, to daven before the start of school. Further information to follow.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- Parents voiced their appreciation for all the extra-curricular activities and clubs that the school provides for the boys.

**BOOK WEEK**

- Parents very appreciative of Book Week again.
- Parents asked that as well as books, the fair should sell the pencils and rubbers but not the pointers. Mr Sager said he would take that back to Ms Zrihen.

**BOOKS TO READ**

- Discussion then took place re. books and where parents can buy books appropriate to the school.
- Mr Sager said he had been made aware yesterday by Mrs Lerner of an American website that reviews the kashrus of hundreds of books but of course they may not include titles by English authors.
- Mr Sager will share the website address with parents.

**TU B'SHVAT FRUIT SCULPTURES**

- This is always a special day and will be taking place once again this year.
- Parents commented how lovely the sculptures are, even if most of the work is done by mothers.
- Mr Sager reminded parents that the school enjoys a huge fruit banquet in the afternoon of Tu B'Shvat (after staff spend an hour and a half taking the sculptures apart!), while several sculptures are taken to the SAGE Home in Golders Green.

**YEAR 6 OUTCOMES AND LEAGUE TABLES**

- A parent asked about the Year 6 outcomes relative to the position in the school league tables.
- Mr Sager clarified for parents how this works, boys as individuals and the negative impact of average outcomes in one subject on the outstanding achievement in the other subjects.
- Mr Sager also spoke about how the school continuously looks for ways to improve what we do and how we do it.

**YEAR 2 SATs & MENTAL HEALTH**

- The pressures of SATs was addressed and how we deal with it in Year 2. Parents that have been through this were very complimentary about the school and how we manage this with the boys and keep them calm and relaxed during the year and test period.
- Mr Sager also highlighted what the school does to support any boys that get anxious any time, including reminding them that we only expect their best efforts, no more than that. He also reminded parents about the 'Nurture Drop-In Centre' that the school runs twice a week, led by two trained members of staff.

*Parents finished by thanking the school for another wonderful term.*