

**Notes from the Parents Voice Meeting
held on Wednesday 10th May 2017
at 7pm in the Main School Library**

Apologies Received From:

Nancy Baker
Jill Bowyer
Peter Bridgland
Sera Hussain
Angie Phillips

Parents Present:

Janet Allen
Sarah Allen
Linda Cook
Diane Fundell
Corinne Haywood
Karl Haywood
Ros Howe
Darren Lord
Marcella Lord
Amanda Moffatt
Christina Mathioudakis
Julie Pearce
Vanessa Poynter
Mikala Rutherford
Sally Skipper
Wai Wong
Cynthia Wood

WH Staff Present:

Mrs Howarth, Headteacher

Minutes from previous meeting - already circulated

Attendance of Parents Voice at Year 6 Evening

FH expressed her thanks to M Lord and those parents who were attending. M Lord

highlighted the areas she proposed to speak about. Good additional points were made by parents present. M Lord explained the website had been revamped. She explained that at the meeting the Parents Voice would try and recruit more parents from the new Year 7. A suggestion was made that the Parents Voice could create its own mission statement and terms of reference. **Action:** To be returned to at the next meeting.

FH informed parents that issues raised and actions taken are fed into the main full Governors meeting by the two parent Governors who are on Parent Voice (Sally and Marcella). A question was raised if information regarding the Parents Voice features in the prospectus. **Action:** FH to check. It appears in the Year 6 booklet introducing West Hatch.

M Lord asked for parents to volunteer to be at the Year 7 first day in September to be available to answer questions that parents might have once their sons and daughters leave to go off to class. **Action:** FH to let D Leonard know and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Homework

FH confirmed that she had spoken to staff about making explicit the amount of time expected to be spent on extended pieces of homework set.

Attendance Letters Sent to Parents

FH explained that these were being reviewed.

Feedback re Year 8 and 9 Options Process

This had been well received. Parents felt it was informative and worked well.

Pupils Going Home in PE Kit

Concern was expressed regarding girls and boys having their name visible on their shorts/skirts. **Action:** FH to discuss further with DL and Governors in terms of this being a possible safeguarding issue. Suggestions were made - could only the initial go on the shorts/skirts. Pupils in the interim could bring track suit bottoms to go home in.

PE Kit and What to Wear When

FH provided a summary that had been given to her from the PE Department.

Hot Food

Still an ongoing concern regarding the nature/amount of hot food available at lunch times. **Action:** FH to personally monitor and check over a period of time and report back.

Cut Back as a Result of Budget Cuts and the Impact on Year 10-13s

FH explained that there had been no impact in terms of choice offered for GCSEs and A level/post 16 curriculum. The impact came where pupils did not select certain courses that meant numbers were very small and the groups were not viable.

Below 8 was the threshold. Courses not running in Year 12 this September are Film Studies, Computing, Music and Art. A request was made that West Hatch review how the option blocks work in the Sixth Form. **Action:** FH to pursue with DL.

Homework

Concern in the lead up to exams that homework set is supporting revision for their exams. **Action:** FH to speak to all staff about this in Briefing.

Parents are very keen to ensure effort made on homework is recognised. FH explained this is going to be a key feature of the new Reward Scheme being introduced for September. A high priority will be given to teachers checking homework is done.

Revision

Action: FH to check all staff have gone through the Revision Advice presentation in form period.

Year 7 Parents Evening Feedback

The feedback given regarding pupils progress was very helpful. Concern was expressed at the cramped conditions.

A request was made to increase the space available for parents to wait to see staff. Concern expressed regarding the appointments system which some parents felt didn't work.

Parents requested that students had a 5 minute gap in between their appointments to enable them to move from one slot to another, if staff were in different parts of the building.

FH explained that the appointment system does regulate the flow of people, spreading it out throughout the evening. If a member of staff has no one with them parents can slip in.

A request was made that we explore the possibility of an online booking form. **Action:** FH and DL to explore further.

The timing of the Year 7 Parents Evening was also discussed with the Year 7 coming earlier if possible. **Action:** FH to feed this into imminent discussions regarding next year's calendar and will look into opening up more areas i.e. back of library, lower library and all ground floor C rooms.

Parent Mail

A request was made that at the start of a ParentMail we would indicate which Year group the message pertained to as sometime there is confusion where families have more than one child at the school. **Action:** FH to alert the office.

Use of Library

Request for clarification if students need to work together on a piece of work. Is there a particular place they can do this?

Uniform

Clarification requested - Year 11 to wear blazers and have the new v neck jumper. **Action:** FH to clarify for parents again in newsletter.

Fundraising for Library

Following budget cuts parents are aware some periodicals will no longer be available.

Request that a non-uniform day be organised to support the Library. **Action:** FH to discuss with DL.

Year 11 Parental Feedback

Real appreciation was shown for Mr Sinfield's regular news updates for parents. A request was made that something similar is put in place for Years 7 and 8 and 9 and 10. **Action:** FH to discuss this with him.

Revision Information

Check details have been given out regarding Year 7 RS. **Action:** FH to check.

Suggestions for Renaming Parents Voice

Thanks to Karl Haywood for a suggested new name and logo. Parents on reflection felt they wanted to keep 'Parents Voice'. **Action:** FH to thank and recognise Ewen who designed it.

Update on Building Programme and Public Meeting

FH outlined plans to date:
New Sports Hall
New classroom block
Additional Reprographics area
Two new Science labs
Internal remodelling

A public meeting is planned for the summer term - date yet to be finalised.

Pupils Belongings

A request was made for pupils to double check they are picking up the right bag. If they discover they had picked up someone else's bag that they must return it the point

they took it from. **Action:** FH to speak to form tutors to pass this message on.

Next meeting: 4th July at 7pm in the Library.

Any agenda items to FH by Friday 23rd June.