

Notes from the Parents Voice Meeting
held on Tuesday 5th July 2016
at 7pm in the Main School Library

Parents Present:

Janet Allen
Michelle Ballard
Steve Boyle
Linda Cook
Diane Fundell
Sera Hussein
Amanda Moffat
Christina Mathioudakis
Kam Pindoria
Sally Skipper

Apologies

Gill Bowyer
Neena Freeman
Angie Phillips
Angie Stevens

WH Staff Present:

Frances Howarth

Minutes of Previous Meeting

DofE Duke of Edinburgh - applications for individuals and groups can be made directly to the DofE Trust. They will identify centres where the qualification can be taken and give advice.

Action: Contact them first directly or Mr Howell for more info.

Running out of Food - with the new lunch time arrangements food will be replenished throughout the 45 minutes. The order of students will be rotated throughout the year.

Concerns if an issue has not been resolved satisfactorily by the school - this will be tabled.

Water Fountains - these have been inspected and are now all working well.

Detention - concern where individual staff had cancelled but this information had not been communicated to our Student Services Manager.

Action: FH to let staff know any changes must go through Gemma Saunders so that referrals for Seclusions are accurate.

Managing Parent Behaviour Policy

FH explained the rationale for the Policy and the fact that poor parental behaviour is few and far between.

Parents discussed the proposed policy. It was suggested that the policy be available on the website at the beginning of the year and that parents be made aware of this. This will be communicated via emails and the newsletter.

Long term it was felt, alongside the Behaviour Policy flagged up at Year 6 interviews, the Parental Conduct Policy could also be highlighted.

Action: FH to do this.

Complaints Policy

Following on from a request for information if a concern was still outstanding what course of action could parents pursue? FH issued and outlined the school's Complaints Policy - highlighting the 4 levels indicating how parents could get redress.

Action: FH to speak to reception staff to ask, following a complaint, that parents indicate when they will be available to talk to staff. Likewise, if contact has not been possible due to the parent being busy, FH will ask staff to leave a message and indicate when they are available for parents to phone again and to impress on staff it is their responsibility to keep on trying to make contact.

New Marking and Feedback Practice from September

FH outlined arrangements for September and the rationale for this.

Action: Following an issue regarding concern re "pre-emptive homework" - FH to speak to staff regarding the need to set on Show My Homework the context to any research that is set and to train pupils regarding what is expected.

Parents understood the rationale for the change - questions were asked regarding Grades/Levels and FH explained the 5 year flightpath and the fact that end of year target grades would be identified with reporting on them at Progress Checks indicating if students were on target, exceeding or below.

Year 11 Information Evening Request

A request for the above was made. This was agreed upon and will be taking place on 8th September.

Action: FH to ensure letters are sent out and the event is planned.

Increased Safety Measures in Place at the Front of School

FH explained that we were successful in securing a grant to install fencing at the front of school. Various photographs were tabled. Parents understood the rationale and were supportive of the proposals made.

Review of the Year and Priorities 2016-17

1. Teaching and Learning - challenge at all levels.
2. Behaviour - increasing further positive building attitudes to learning and resilience.
3. Pupil Premium - improving outcomes
4. Sixth Form
 - Encouraging independent learning skills
 - Tackling female under achievements
 - Attendance and punctuality to lesson
 - Top end achievement (more A grades)

Key Successes throughout the Year were Highlighted

FH outlined key areas the school has been working on and the successes achieved across a number of fronts.

Points Raised by Parents

The Year 12 evening had been successful highlighting the support available for university applicants.

Action: FH to pursue with GT/AS/VS more information being available in relation to apprenticeships - key companies offering them, careers available, job prospects and how to apply.

Luxborough Lane Fencing

This is being installed.

Action: FH to inform students they must not leave the site via the above.

Maths

Concern was expressed regarding staff recruitment in Maths in particular. FH explained this is a problem nationally.

Action: Parents to contact FH if there are specific concerns.

Year 11

Concern regarding budget cuts if there will be a cap on resources available for Year 11 students.

Action: FH to explore and communicate to parents at the Year 11 Parents Information Evening in September.

Attendance and First Day Absence Texting

Concern was expressed that this was happening even when students were in school.

Action: FH to explore the extent of the problem and if there were actions/steps we could take to double check prior to a text being sent.

Lower School Award Evening

A request was made that more individual information as to why awards had been awarded is communicated on the night.

Action: FH to liaise with LM.

Publicity for Parents Voice

Action: FH to publicise on the website and to have the agendas available so parents can see and opt into the meetings.

FH thanked all parents attending for their input and ongoing support.

Action: FH to send out a list of meeting dates for the year as soon as the school calendar is ratified.

The next meeting will take place on 27th September.

Thanks to all for your contributions.