

**Notes from the Parents Voice Meeting  
held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
at 7pm in the Main School Library**

**Apologies Received From:**

Helen Dawes  
Neena Freeman  
Julie Pearce  
Wai Wong

**Parents Present:**

Janet Allen  
Nancy Baker  
Michelle Ballard  
Jill Bowyer  
Steve Boyle  
Peter Bridgland  
Diane Fundell  
Corinne Haywood  
Karl Haywood  
Darren Horn  
Darren Lord  
Marcella Lord  
Christina Mathioudakis  
Johannah McCarthy  
Amanda Moffatt  
Valentina Nicolaou  
Kam Pindoria  
Vanessa Poynter  
Mikala Rutherford  
Cynthia Wood

**WH Staff Present:**

Frances Howarth

1. Minutes from last meeting - 27<sup>th</sup> September - Action Points

FH confirmed that 10 behaviour logs would be the threshold for Year 7 in connection with the Rewards trip. Thereafter it would revert back to the

figures expected for the rest of the school.

2. Music Tuition Information - this is on the website and will be circulated again via ParentMail.
3. Year 11 → 12 Transition - this is being followed up tonight with a talk on Apprenticeships by Geoff Towsey.
4. EPQ - Extended Project Qualification - requests had been made for more information, again Geoff Towsey will be speaking about this at the meeting.
5. Work experience and the Duke of Edinburgh clash dates. FH confirmed that this will not happen this year.

**Input re Apprenticeships**

A short talk was given by Mr Towsey together with informative handouts and a booklet.

**Action:** Parents please let me know if you were unable to attend and would like a copy.

**Extended Professional Qualification**

Parents appreciated the information Mr Towsey gave them and were please that all students in the Sixth Form can choose to get involved.

### Review of Year 10 Parents Information Evening

Parents who attended found this very helpful. They did feedback that it was very detailed and a bit long in parts.

**Action:** FH to feed this back so that it can be born in mind for the following year.

### Review of Year 11 Revision Day Guidance

This was well received and had motivated students to make productive use of their half term break.

### Rewards - Awards and Evenings of Recognition

FH highlighted that parent feedback had fed into the planning and delivering of the three latest evenings.

They queried Reward points being sent home. It was pointed out that they can be seen at the bottom of the Detention notification.

Other parents confirmed that Behaviour Logs do not seem to be being sent home when they were issued.

**Action:** FH to explore further with Mr Leonard.

They particularly liked the postcards that were sent home.

**Action:** FH to look into more being sent.

### School Expansion Plans

FH gave an update regarding the public consultation now underway and very positive support received from the Parish Council. The Local Authority has confirmed a considerable amount of money is available for the new Sports Centre and classroom block.

### Year 8 and 9 Option Choice Evenings

FH confirmed that the numbers involved would impact on the planning with there being either two separate evenings or set times for each Year group on the same evening.

**Action:** FH to consult with SLT (School Leadership Team).

### Lighting in the Car Park

Concern was raised regarding how dark the car park is at night. FH explained it is being addressed.

**Action:** FH to discuss with Business Manager timescales.

### Show My Homework

Concern was expressed that some homework was posted during the half term when some families were on holiday resulting in worry and anxiety when they returned to find homework that needed to be in early the following week.

FH apologised for this and agreed to speak to all staff.

**Action:** FH to do this at full staff Briefing.

### Pupil Post Box

FH confirmed that the post box is located at Student Services and is for students to post requests, concerns, ideas/suggestions and any concerns they have regarding their fellow pupils.

**Action:** FH to publicise this again for all pupils to be aware.

Case studies re items raised at the Parents Voice Meeting that have subsequently been resolved or have directly fed into changes of practice or new initiatives/development

FH highlighted a number that had directly impacted on the work of the school or had been resolved. These are important as OFSTED will expect us to be able to demonstrate that we have worked with parents and responded to their concerns and feedback.

**Action:** Parents please let FH know via email if there are others that were raised and have been resolved.

Work Experience

New behaviour procedures

Criteria for Reward trips

Awards Evenings

Position of Year 7 Settling in

Evening/Aspirations Day

Information Evenings for all Year groups

House Competitions

Parents focus talks:

Apprenticeships

Marking and feedback

e-Safety

New curriculum/exam system

Drugs information

3 year GCSEs

Year 11 blazers

Review of the school day

Year 11 support and intervention - context

requested for the Information Evening

Feedback on Banding System

Detention notification

EPPA Award - Outstanding Partnerships with Parents

Activities Week

Homework Policy - Show My Homework

Specific Concerns

Homework regularity and expectations

Marking of pupils work

Teacher Parent communication

Parent/Teacher Communication

FH outlined the range of ways that parents can use to liaise/communicate with staff. She apologised if this, at times, created frustration. Some concern was raised regarding the tone/message given by certain members of staff.

**Action:** FH to discuss with the individual staff involved.

Water Fountains

The matter re hygiene and regular cleaning had been addressed.

Lunchtime Eating Arrangements

Concern was raised again that when a Year group enter last there is not enough hot food left.

**Action:** FH to talk further with the Catering Manager. Her response was as follows:

We always have food available for the last group in, we have always managed to get them in by 1.50pm. This might be the time the main dish of the day runs out but there is always pasta, jacket potatoes etc left. Parents can still put a daily limit on the students account and must contact me as I am the only one who can do this. Prices are displayed on the website, in the main dining room and outside where they wait.

School Bus to Chigwell Row

A request was made that the school look into the feasibility of this happening.

**Action:** FH to follow up.

## Food Technology and the Teaching of Practicals

FH went through the frequency re when they take place. KS3 roughly should be doing practicals 9 out of 18 lessons. Some practicals will be a whole class activities i.e. pasta making and KS4 pupils will be cooking weekly.

An enquiry was made as to whether the minutes and agenda can go on the website. It was confirmed that they are.

Parents requested that food had prices on so that pupils could learn how to budget if they had an allowance each day. FH to explore if possible and also if the spending cap is still possible on pupils accounts. Please see Catering Managers response under lunchtime eating arrangements.

## Buses

A request was made if the second school bus could possibly leave a little later each day.

**Action:** FH to enquire if this is possible.

## Year 10 Rugby

A parent was interested to know what provision is available for this.

**Action:** FH to find out and respond to Mrs McCarthy.

Thank you for everyone's contributions and attendance.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th January 2017 at 7pm.