

**Notes from the Parents Voice Meeting
held on Wednesday 25th January 2017
at 7pm in the Main School Library**

Apologies Received From:

Peter Bridgland
Julie Pearce

Parents Present:

Janet Allen
Sarah Allen
Nancy Baker
Jill Bowyer
Steve Boyle
Linda Cook
Diane Fundell
Sera Hussein
Matt Lopez-Dias
Darren Lord
Marcella Lord
Ambika Pindoria
Vanessa Poynter
Mikala Rutherford
Sally Skipper
Angie Stephens

WH Staff Present:

Mrs Howarth, Headteacher
Mr Leonard, Associate Head

1. Minutes from last meeting - already circulated

Year 10 Information Evening- it has been fed back to the person who co-ordinates the evening that the content was very helpful but it was a bit long in parts.

Behaviour Logs - Mr Leonard confirmed what parents should be receiving and asked for any concerns to be fed directly back to him.

Option Choice Evenings - Mr Leonard explained that all parents of Year 8 and 9 would receive a letter inviting them to the evening with a specified time on Thursday 9th March.

There is also a Transition Day for Years 8 and 9 on Thursday 2nd March when they will look at progression routes post West Hatch, Sixth Form, Apprenticeships, College and specific input on careers and wider options.

Lighting in the Car Park - quotes now agreed - trenches for the electrics will be dug next week. The masts will be installed and lights erected by the end of February.

Show My Homework - **Action:** FH to reinforce setting homework at the beginning of the holiday (already discussed with staff) and to ask staff to set it by Friday pm for the week and to avoid it being sent out late on a Sunday which causes students worry.

School Bus to Chigwell - contact has been made with TFL who are getting back to us regarding the process and evidence we need to generate to show there is a need.

Food Prices - these are all on the website.

Rugby Year 10 - after initially limited interest the Year 10 VIIs team have played in a rugby festival and did well. More opportunities are coming up.

2. New Curriculum Plans for Sept 2017

Mr Leonard explained the rationale for the 2 year KS3 and 3 year KS4 and the option choices that will be available to students in Year 8 and Year 9 this year. This information will be available at the Options Evening on 9th March.

3. Feedback Regarding Progress Checks

Questions raised regarding the process were answered. Parents were generally pleased with the process and information they are receiving.

4. New Gradings Across KS3 and KS4

Mr Leonard explained the new flight path system and new gradings and their equivalents. This information will again be available at the 2nd March meeting and for other Year groups at the Information Evenings.

5. Year 11 Mocks and their Placement Before Christmas

The wider plan was shared with parents regarding Year 11 and the pre public exams scheduled for after half term and later again in March to try and give students as many opportunities as possible to practice sitting their exams. The frequency of these full assessments greatly helps inform their teachers of their strengths and weaknesses. This helps us identify the specific additional

support and intervention needed to rectify these.

6. Provision for Break and Lunchtime in Adverse Weather

The hall is always available when it rains or rooms C1, C2, C3 and C4 if the hall is being used for exams. The hall is also opened up when it's particularly cold.

7. Allocation of Reward Points

We currently operate the 'Vivo' reward scheme based upon effort, hard work and our six core values; be determined and persevere, be respectful, be responsible, be considerate, be ready to achieve and be proud.

We are planning a full review of our Rewards system and will involve students in feedback and contributing to a new system we will put in place in September.

8. Update regarding Security to the Front of the School

Due to the need for new gates to be remade there has been a delay. The planned completion date is the end of the half term holiday.

9. Update regarding the School Expansion

Provisional dates were shared regarding the consultation evening and deadlines for tendering, appointing contractors and meetings with the Local Authority and developers. All being well, work will start in September 2017 using the field for contractors so that pupil and staff safety will not be compromised.

10. Plans for Year 11 in the Run Up to their Public Exams

Please see the document attached from Mr Sinfield that FH spoke about.

11. Careers Festival at Epping Forest College - 26th January, 3.00pm

Parents were encouraged to take their sons/daughters as it has proved a very worthwhile event in the past.

12. A.O.B.

- Choice of Exam Boards - the rationale for the selection made includes exam coverage being appropriate for our students. All departments have looked in great detail at the new specs and have attended meetings about them. Very often they consider the specialist expertise of the staff teaching the course.
- Concern Year 11s are getting too much homework and it's hard for them to start revising. **Action:** FH to talk to staff regarding this.
- Duke of Edinburgh - some students didn't gain a place. **Action:** FH to investigate.

Agenda items for next meeting will be asked for in good time. Next meeting was planned for Tuesday 14th March however, Mrs Howarth is unable to attend. A new date of **Tuesday 21st March** is proposed.

Thanks for everyone's attendance and your ongoing interest in the school and support.