

Parent Voice Notes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024

Please note, this is a brief summary of discussions with actions rather than detailed minutes of the meeting.

The Headteacher wanted to thank the parents who were able to attend the meeting.

1. Actions from previous meeting:

1.1 DofE in Year 9

The Head has spoken to the lead for DofE and she has explained the following;

- We start the DofE in Year 10 because of the time it takes for students to go through the application process and complete the work. Many of our students take over a year to complete all the exercises required to fulfil the Bronze award. If we started the award in Year 9 and then the Silver after, a significant number of students would be completing their Silver at the same time as the GCSE's start (indeed my own son at a different school is completing his Silver expedition in two weeks, with 6 weeks until the exams start). Also, the Silver is very similar to the Bronze.
- Her recommendation is that instead of trying to crow bar in the Silver, we should miss it out and go straight to the Gold award in Sixth Form. This is something we are going to pursue.

1.2 **Students missing the bus** – discussed later in the meeting. A message was sent to all staff reminding them to let students out on time.

1.3 Crossing at Brooke Parade

We have approached the council; we are yet to have any feedback.

2. Update on the Rewards System

The Headteacher gave an update on rewards following the student consultation. In essence the consultation wasn't particularly useful and no new ideas were proposed. The school has some thinking to do around rewards and will have a plan for next year.

Parents comments - some students don't like being singled out - what can we do to celebrate quietly - is there anything on Teams we can do that shows the students they have got rewards regularly.

Action: The Headteacher will look into this further.

3. DPR

Positive feedback from parents – easier to know how their child is doing and where to improve.

Action: The Headteacher to make sure parents are still getting percentages at the end of the year from the exams.

4. Future Trips

The Headteacher spoke about trips and visits and the Spanish proposed trip next year for Year 10. He explained that trips were voluntary and the school couldn't force them to happen. Staff are more inclined to run trips during the school day but they then miss teaching time for others and there is more cover.

The Ski trip will not be running next year because of the late Easter. The Headteacher to make sure the current Year 8 and 9 students will be able to access it when it runs again in 2 years but parents will need to understand that it will be close to the GCSE exams for Year 11's.

5. **Sporting Activity Notifications**

Can they be as early as possible as late notice really impacts on how parents organise their days, many have other children to collect. The Headteacher noted that sometimes, particularly in cup competitions at this time of year, games are re-arranged at short notice however most should be pre-planned.

Action: Headteacher to discuss with the PE department.

6. **Exams - concern over too many on each day and not being informed if they run late.**

The Headteacher advised that the school has changed its processes to reduce internal exams.

Action: The Headteacher to speak to the Exams Team about notifications to parents if exams run late.

7. **INSET Days Notification**

The website is not always up to date with the latest inset days. It was noted that the half termly newsletter always has all dates for the following term.

Action: The Headteacher will check that the website is accurate.

8. **Front of School Works**

The Headteacher went through plans for the front of school. He hoped this would alleviate the problems with the buses at the end of the school day.

9. **AOB**

9.1 Feedback from parents that Science is much improved following feedback at a previous Parents Voice – really positive now and students are much more engaged as a result.

9.2 It was noted that Ms Lord was thanked for taking students to Chigwell for International Women's Day.