

Alderman White School Parents' Forum

Thursday 23rd November 2017

Present:

N Caley (NC)
 P Heery (PH)
 K Stephan (KS)
 Ruth Brittle - Ciaran (RB)
 Nicola Peddie - Amelia (NP)
 Ann Marie Carroll - Carys, Cian & Rhianna (AC)
 Fiona Wright - Harry & Max (FW)
 Janet Walker - Ruby, Maya & Jacob (JW)
 Sandra Payne Amelia & Sasha (SP)
 John Williams - Marshall, May & Georgia (JW)
 Alistair Bloomfield - Lucy & Jonathan (AB)

Topic	Discussion	Action
Thank you	Huge thanks to Kay Woolley for her service to Parents' Forum.	
Emailing	Please email Heather Crofts for agenda items.	CAL to make sure this contact is on the website. PF information on Newsletter
Purpose of Parents' Forum	Feedback is useful so we need more publicity. (PH) to introduce one to Sixth Form as well. Will place information in the Newsletter about Parents' Forum.	
GCSE Exams	Where mock exams were sat in a separate room, there was disruption during exams in terms of rooming and invigilators. Clock was wrong in one exam. Invigilators talking. Problem with questions. (NC) Exams officer is new at AW. New invigilators too – getting used to the system. (TH) New clocks and batteries have been ordered. Digital clocks as well. Attitude of invigilator has now been addressed. Late students – try to deal with it as quietly as possible. Tend to have some room every time. (FW) Some students went from one exam to another – so had 3 hours without a break. (TH) This was an oversight it shouldn't have happened. (PH) Clear whole schedule for real exams – so it should not happen in real exam. (NC) Student came and told me at reception. Quality of papers – check. (TH) Biology comes from exam pro. HoD should check quality.	

<p>End of Term Graduation Evening</p>	<p>(SP) General comment on mocks seem too early and very little teaching time this term. Re-evaluate grades on basis of this. A lot of pressure to do well – 2 months into Year 11.</p> <p>(NC) Exams start in May 2018 so need to do them early.</p> <p>(TH) teaching point of view= 1 year & 2 months. Your daughter has built capacity to do well in the exam in May/June.</p> <p>(SP) Worried about health & anxiety.</p> <p>(TH) exams are important but talked about balance.</p> <p>(PH) Not having predictions on topics you haven't done.</p> <p>(TH) Been in various places over the years; feel that!</p> <p>(FW) Parents' Evening after the mocks would be better.</p> <p>(TH) Parents' Evening = kick starts the year and information about the mocks.</p> <p>But if after the mocks too late and complaints about not being told stuff.</p> <p>Make parents' evening for children where there is an issue.</p> <p>(JW) Graduation is good for celebrating success but the challenge is making it inclusive.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graduation feels like you fail if you don't graduate. 2. Points system could be divisive – son felt he had failed the year – potential to undermine. Students who are disadvantaged (DA) and struggle to get to school and will pick up – points along the way. Reinforces the feeling of 'failure'. <p>Top end students on school trips can't afford it or students not emotionally ready for school trips etc – unfair.</p> <p>Does it have to be Graduation? Points and differentiation could be divisive? End of Year Celebration? Key Stage Graduation – aspire towards it during the year. 2 key aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students try hard. 2. Highlight what students do in and around the community. <p>Try hard to make it as far as possible.</p> <p>Platinum was open to students achieving that aspirational target. Brings in everyone as much as possible.</p>	<p>TH to ask Heads of Department to check the copies of exam papers they send for copying and check once all copied.</p>
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	<p>(JW) Website still says school trips give big point for Graduation, etc. Appreciate it is difficult but felt divisive.</p> <p>(PH) Balance with credibility and broadening the bar. Tutors need to work with classes this year on Graduation.</p> <p>(JB) Lack of opportunity to do things - after school stuff.</p> <p>(LR) Effort to pay for DA students involved in activities.</p> <p>(KS) School Fairs – students not usually involved were involved.</p> <p>(SP) Don't take away aspirational aspects but it is about getting DA students involved in enrichment activities.</p> <p>(KS) Tutors will be asking students to look at the criteria and encourage them to get involved.</p> <p>(JW) Something sent home about graduation and the positive aspects of it.</p> <p>(KS) More students who don't want to be recognised.</p> <p>(JW) Actions – more interaction with students and communication back to parents.</p> <p>(NP) Christmas Carol Service. Publicise the Carol Concert for senior citizens.</p>	<p>(NC) Place it on Facebook/Twitter – extra event for dancers, singers etc.</p> <p>(PH) Invites out to the community.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>(SP) Music + involvement. Cameron Wedgeworth's organisation is brilliant – nothing but a plus! Could more be done with university links etc? Also Classical Oxjam?</p> <p>(PH) Changeover of music staff meant we were not involved in Classical Oxjam. Oxjam introducing too – make sure they talk to us early next year.</p> <p>(NC) Had university link with the choir – has folded this year.</p> <p>(PH) Cameron Wedgeworth this year and hopefully next year.</p> <p>(JW) Is a Community Choir possible?</p> <p>(PH) Shame we don't have a choir in any of the schools – looking to start one?</p> <p>(SP) GCSE results – maths seemed lower than English.</p> <p>(PH) Progress measured differently now. Thresholds are misleading in English at of 2.</p> <p>(NC) Maths progress levels above national except in the 4+ category. Maths better than national. English above Maths nationally.</p> <p>Lot of Maths intervention at the moment. HoD disappointed at the 4+ figure and that this is the headline figure.</p> <p>(JW) English Literature results.</p>	

	<p>(NC) only 2/3 sat – only sit those who are ready. Current Y11 have already banked 65.9% Grade 4+ and 53% Grade 5+ - one third still have to sit the exam. Not involved in 2017 figures. (TH) Average grade for Y10 same as Y11. (NC) 2 sat who we were worried about. Individual decisions. (AB) Information/communication about the performance. (KS) → Calendar. (AB) Communication about Y10 exams/tests – alert on Go4Schools. Various forms of communication – FB/Twitter/Emails. (PH) App for Communication is being looked at. (TH) Multiple platforms for Communication with parents. (PH) Almost 90% of parents have email so we have almost full coverage. (JW) SEN in Y8 – hasn't managed to do Cookery all last year and now on Textiles again! (TH) Don't know what has happened.</p> <p>Meeting concluded at 7.55pm.</p>	<p>TH to investigate.</p>
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