



Alderman White School

A member of The White Hills Park Trust

Alderman White Parent Forum - remote meeting: 29.4.2020

Sarah Watson – Chair

Esther Fulton - Minutes

1. Minutes/ matters arising

- Reviewed last minutes of meeting - all items were discussed and clarified
- Main points: exam equipment and behaviour will now carry on throughout all school exams in the future
- ‘Classroom Expectations’ successfully launched and continuing online
- parent questionnaire will be repeated in order to gain more responses
- ‘targeted’ trips have been investigated and reasons clarified- communications about future trips will be looked into

2. Could you please advise if Year 9’s currently year 8) will be in mixed groups for Core subjects next year please or whether it is more likely they will be streamed into ability groups again. (Catherine Russell – unable to attend meeting)

AM explained that in Y9 upwards all subjects get taught at same time across the curriculum and there is one set for HA students and the rest tend to be more mixed ability/ nuanced groups. These groups are parallel or overlapping groups- there is no ‘setting’ from the top down. This helps with GCSE preparation. The school understand that these transitions need careful handling and communication needs to be made clear to all students and parents.

3. Work that is being set for students – both the format & the quantity. (Claire Sayers)

4. Are parents supposed to still be looking at homework in Go4Schools or is it all on Google Classroom? If we are looking on Go4Schools can handed in work be removed once deadlines have passed. (Louise Wilson)

A thank-you was made from the parents to all staff for getting the online learning right. One parent said her Y7 child was struggling with all the technology and handling all the information coming in. Other parents said the first 2 weeks were hard but it has settled down now and they know that everything is on Google Classroom for individual subjects and no longer on Go for Schools. There are ‘to do’ tasks on Google classrooms that state all activities that need doing that week (daily timetables were discussed but weekly timetables work best for flexibility within different family situations etc.) and when task have been completed they go off the ‘to do’ list. Suggested that adults can access their child’s email in order to understand what has been sent and set for their child.

‘Live’ lessons have been discussed and tested and intention is to introduce these over time. These will be in different formats. Tutors are already offering online ‘chats’ to their tutees. Maths/science have offered live lessons this week. Feedback that level and amount of work was about right on the whole.

Question asked about Careers and future learning. MH explained that a meeting has happened and packages for KS3 and 4 should be available now on PSHE Google Classroom.

5. Whilst lockdown is on are students still earning inspire points I think it can still be a good form of acknowledgment of their work and an incentive?

(Louise Wilson)

One parent asked if Inspire points would be continuing. There has been a meeting with progress leaders about this and this is going to be promoted.

6. Expectations for Y11 students. (Esther Fulton)

Question asked about Y11 work expectations. Alex Young /Gail Friend working on this to help all students make informed decisions about A- level choices and how to get into next steps of education. Questionnaire sent out to all Y11 students by email to establish which GCSE's students want to continue with if they feel they want to take exams in the Autumn. Curriculum leaders are working on more preparation for this. Y11 Team 22 on Google Classroom good place to go for students. Can become involved in Enrichment now as have more spare time. Look for relevant links on 'Stay at Home' page on website. Parents to be kept informed of provision by email.

7. AOB

Discussed making these virtual meetings more regular rather than termly due to current conditions- agreed for next meeting to be in 3 weeks.

Another parent thanked the school staff again for all their efforts so far and would the school be thinking about Y10's and supporting them for going into next year e.g. becoming senior Students. This was agreed that this should carry on and AM will look into how this can happen. General mental health was briefly discussed as students coming back into school in a different way will need careful handling in order to feel 'normal' again.