

Alderman White School – Parents’ Forum – via Zoom – 24/06/2020

Chair – Sam Clements

Minutes – Caroline Hird

1. Feedback from previous meeting.

No comments

2. Provision Until the End of the Summer Term: Year 7-9

a) How will remote learning develop for children who are not going to be back in school before the summer holidays? (*James Thomas*)

- For Year 9’s the decision has been made to roll curriculum forward slightly now that options have been chosen so that work on GCSE syllabuses can start. WE had intended to do some additional work around KS3-4 transition this year but teachers were very flexible in quickly responding to the request to move to this model. Specialism classes will have 6 x fifty minutes periods a fortnight in options subjects so the level of work set should reflect this

Action: Need to ensure students, staff and parents are all aware of the expected time commitment (AM)

- Acknowledged that the lockdown has gone on a lot longer than expected. In the remaining 4 ½ weeks focus is on refinement and improvement in consistency of work being set. More quality assurance is in place to ensure across board provision.
- Working on increasing live interaction. Focus is to have at least 1 live interaction or lesson per week (or fortnight if fortnightly lessons). Staff are being trained in using the technology. Science department is leading the way with this. Should see an increase over the coming weeks.

b) Teacher feedback. Can be difficult for your child to know how they are doing as there appears to be very little marking of tasks that have been set (*Helen Hanslow*)

- Lisa Rockley responded that there are a range of different mechanisms for feedback in place, some automatic through websites (e.g. mymaths) and staff are asked to provide one piece of individual feedback per subject each half term.
- Year 7 reports have been written as they missed a parents evening just before lockdown Year 10 assessments have taken place and reports are now being written. Year 9 are going to have English, maths and science assessments before the end of term.
- School are moving towards more regular feedback, although some of this will be on overall class progress not an individual basis.
- There is an expectation that there will be something that students have to submit for every activity but individual feedback won’t be provided for every submitted task – this is in line with our in school marking policy and good practice around marking and feedback.

Action: Update to parents, students and staff to clarify marking and feedback policy during lockdown. (LR)

3. Provision Until the End of the Summer Term: Year 10

a) The structure and consistency in the virtual teaching programme. Engagement has decreased over time. No live lessons and no contact make it difficult for students to engage (*Helen Sykes*)

- Acknowledged that as lockdown continues for longer than initially anticipated, student motivation may reduce. Current government guidance is that for secondary school students on site provision can be provided for only 25% of students in Y10 on any one day. Social distancing results in small group sizes which means that onsite provision uses large amounts of resource.
- We decided not to follow our usual timetable in setting work early on for reasons discussed at Parents Forum previously, and timetabling supervision, Year 10 on-site provision and other restrictions on staff availability mean that we can't do this – live lessons are scheduled to take place following the timetable, live tutor sessions 9-10am weekly and Y10 on-site provision should give some sense of structure.
- If there are concerns about wellbeing or engagement contact either tutor, progress leader or SLT. We have put in place a range of provisions to support students – over 50 now attend supervision part time or full time including onsite mentoring sessions.
- School is in the process of trialling parents being provided a summary of tasks set and completed on Google classrooms, highlighting outstanding or overdue tasks. Currently a couple of year 7 tutor groups are to receive these. This should help parents monitor if students are completing set tasks on time.

Action: Parents to contact Alex Young if you would like to take part in this trial.

b) What is the plan for teaching new curriculum content to Year 10s before the summer? What is the rationale behind decisions around online lessons, time in school and teaching new curriculum content? (*Joy Miller*)

- Some of this has been covered in previous questions
- The slow start to onsite provision was partly because of late changes to government guidance re start date. Assessments have gone really well. Student who struggled to engage have returned. From next week the year 10s will spend more time with their class teachers. The focus is on ensuring that any time on site has the greatest possible impact on remote learning and that we engage as many students as possible especially those who need it most.
- New curriculum content is now being covered in almost all subjects – where it isn't there is a plan in place to ensure curriculum coverage.

c) Are there any plans to increase the amount of live lessons delivered for the rest of term – particularly for Year 10? (*Helen Williams*)

- Recognise that live interaction is needed and working on increasing this
- Guidance for teachers say that school cannot insist on teachers doing live lessons and sometimes there are practical issues with doing this. There is a requirement of interaction - preferably live lessons but if not through Live chat in Google classrooms is an alternative
- We are working very hard to encourage and support more and more staff to deliver live sessions.
- Most other local schools are not doing any live lessons although these are being used extensively by many independent schools. WBS were also already using technology that meant they could offer this straight away when schools closed.

4. Plans for the Next Academic Year

a) Arrangements for the beginning of term/Y7 Induction (*Louise Wilson*)

- Mandy Holling: induction days will not be on site before the summer holiday. Virtual induction day planned where students will meet their tutor group. Induction evenings will be via zoom.
- Annwen Mellors: will do induction current year 6's when they first start at Alderman White.
- Will also need to re-induct all students when they return to school

b) How will the expected change in social distancing affect planning for on-site provision from September? Would like students to be in school as much as possible when it is safe (*Ruth Star*)

- Planning is under way for September with consideration of managing pinch points such as start and end of school day, breaks, and lunch time.
- Paul Heery said that advice from Government with plan for how all students can return in September is expected in the next few weeks.
- We want to have as many students as we can on site at any point safely
- There is an expectation that things might change during the next school year, so hoping to have a model that is flexible so that learning can continue off site if necessary. This will prioritise having Year 11 on site if we have to revert to teaching in smaller groups.
- Will continue to use Google classrooms if students or staff are out of classroom for any reason

c) Consultation on proposed adjustments to the uniform policy (*Mandy Holling, Assistant Head*)

- Planning to start new academic year with temporary adaptation to uniform policy: blazers and ties not required. Recognised that it is not possible to wash these daily as required to reduce transmission of Coronavirus.
- Students can also wear plain black cardigan or V-necked jumper rather than only logoed as previously stated.
- Coats must be plain coloured and without a logo. No longer required to be a dark coat.
- Senior students ties will be for ceremonial purposes only – a badge will also be provided to identify these students
- We will keep this under review in liaison with parents and uniform providers as the year progresses

5. AOB.

a. Guidance about behaviour in online classrooms. For example, do cameras need to be switched on? (*Sally Mellor*)

- Trust policy currently states that cameras should be switched off during lessons. This will be re-considered, as experience of using live lessons is increasing.

b. Can Year 10's drop a subject? (*Sam Clements*)

- This is still an option and can be discussed when recent assessment results are available

Next Meeting – Wednesday 15th July