

Parents' Forum: Wed 2nd March 2022

Chair: Helen Hanslow

Minutes: Vic Yates

1. Feedback from previous minutes.

A: Canteen.

B: Homework – This item was revisited as a new item as below, point 2.

C: Combined/ triple science split classes in Y10.

A Mellors gave update re: previous concerns around mixed classes: more staffing to be added to improve groupings. AM explained specific challenge of the Y10 cohort in terms of numbers.

D: Trips

A Mellors explained staff are looking into UK and abroad trips and hoping to get back to pre-pandemic calendar for trip opportunities.

E: Negative Behaviour Points

F: Exam Certificates

G: Proms

H: Y9 Options.

M Holling explained option allocation process is happening behind the scenes. A Mellors commented on success of in-school preparation for options. Parents agreed it was clear and thorough- thank you to staff.

I : Uniform

A Mellors explained new laws around cost of uniform as per Dept of Education guidance- more relaxed tone and focus on affordability.

M Holling: views of parents and pupils to be gathered in consultation.

A Mellors anticipates wearing of shorts may be an adjustment to uniform rules and suggested this as agenda item for next time.

2. Homework- consistency of platform for setting homework (Deborah Taylor)

Some HW is being set by email, causing confusion for students- is this supposed to be happening?

L Rockley confirmed HW should be set on GC, not by email. Staff will be reminded.

Vic Yates raised issue of some HW being set in bulk, with a long deadline, rather than week by week- this is challenging for students to manage.

Karen raised issue of due dates not matching timetables.

A Mellors asked for feedback on regularity of HW setting, following previous focus in forums and school push on HW/ asked if too much is being set.

No problems with too much HW reported.

Louise W: Raised issue of Google Classroom summaries and how to receive them for multiple children.

Some discussion of the GC summaries and how helpful they are. Roy raised frustration with GC summaries showing HW as missing when this may not be the case. Some parents reported not receiving emails and asked if they needed to re-register; others receiving them no problem.

A Young explained Y7 registration email went out in Jan but others should still get them from previous registration. Email notifications for Y8-11 seem to be patchy so suggested school may need to re-invite parents to register for weekly GC notifications since it may be tricky for parents to change settings themselves.

A Mellors suggested students may need some training in how to manage their GC assignment lists to avoid tasks stacking up.

3: Planners (Deborah Taylor)

DT raised issue of planner use and lack of dates in current planners as unhelpful for students.

Some discussion around planners' usefulness when pupils use GC for same information. Some parents expressed usefulness of paper based planner, whilst others not sure they serve clear purpose, with Chromebooks in use.

A Mellors clarified planners are optional for Y9-11 and confirmed that all pupils in Y7-9 have a Chromebook.

DT: Could pupils have online calendar instead? Suggested some pupil consultation on this.

4: AOB

School Admissions (Hannah Chambers)

Raised problem of siblings not getting a place at AW this year and asked about waiting list.

A Mellors explained that a letter will go out tomorrow to the parents of the 17 siblings who were not given a place, stating their number in the waiting list.

A Mellors gave background to catchment area and why this has not been amended in the same way as other schools- advice from Local Authority to retain feeder school areas. Parent queried previous Governors' decision on this and asked about how distances are calculated from school- AM clarified- as the crow flies.

M Holling explained school will have waiting list info and parents can check in.

Thank you for Hagg Farm (Louise W)

LW expressed thanks for trip- children enjoyed it. Bob Woollard seconded this.

Ukraine Appeal

Parent asked about Ukraine appeal donations. Some discussion about capacity to collect and store donations- this will be limited to school community (AM).

MH- letter will go out re: Friday's non-uniform fundraiser.

Next meeting- in person or online.

No strong preferences, though greater participation seen online, although good for parents of younger pupils to experience something face to face. AM suggested we stick to online forum for rest of this year, then perhaps alternate.

Date for next meeting:

15.6.2022