

Parent Council Meeting Minutes - 18 January 2017

Eight parents attended the meeting, including the chairperson, Mrs Claire Saunders. It was quite correctly suggested, therefore, that the views expressed at this meeting were only the views of those present and may not represent the entire parent body.

1 **Outlining the intentions of Parent Council:**

- Enable parents to meet, share ideas and feed back to the school;
- Give parents a voice and enable them to contribute to school decision making;
- Help develop a positive partnership between parents and school;
- Consult parents and advise school leadership and/or governing body of parents' views.

2 **Drawing up a list of areas to tackle in forthcoming meetings and prioritising them.**

- **How to improve the attendance:**
 - Publishing library early opening times, use of specific classroom rooms for study home learning, various breakfast clubs etc., with a particular focus on students categorised (i.e. attendance \leq 90%)
- **Home learning**
- **Behaviour**
- **Resources for students**
- **IAG re: Preparation for work/apprenticeships/'real' world**
- **Communication:**
 - From a parent's perspective, communication markedly decreases when their children begin at secondary school and that this is hard to adjust to for some/many.
 - Indicate Year group being targeted on letters.
 - All methods (website, MyEd, emails, Twitter) need to agree with each other regarding details.
 - With MyEd acknowledgement of a message sent is unclear.
 - Could be improved on trips to indicate key points like an arrival at an overnight destination.
 - 'Flashy info board' is completely out of date.
 - Making sporting programmes more available/accessible.
 - Lunch information – could menus be placed on the website.

- **Learning and teaching:**
 - Banding and a child's progress and the new GCSE 'grade' structure is still unclear.
 - What is being taught and when (no more specific than in which term) to be put on Firefly and/or the website so that parents can support their child's learning at home e.g. visiting a museum or seeing a play.
 - Notify parents ahead of sensitive subject areas being taught e.g. sex education or certain political issues, as parents may want to chat further about these things.
 - It seems that is difficult for the most able students to get a gold which can be a demotivating factor.
 - Feedback with marking is still not entirely clear.
 - Year 7/8 Programme of Study – perhaps put into one folder with broad headings.
 - Would it be useful to have parents taking part in parent engagement evenings; perhaps relaying what the tools being introduced look like at home e.g. how they help with their child's revision.
- **Parent feedback:**
 - Have suggestions box in reception and/or make more of the enquiries email address on the website/Firefly and its possible use as a suggestion point
 - Could there be days set aside when parents could drop in for a chat with a member of staff to ask questions, give opinions etc.
- **Subject evenings:**
 - Their re-introduction for all year groups has been well received.
 - Literacy and numeracy evening was brilliant. Could there be subject evenings like this for other areas of the curriculum?
- **Rewards:**
 - Scrap VIVOS – students and then their parents have become cynical of the reward gifts available.
 - List reward points on Firefly – perhaps the cumulative total along with an itemised list from the most recent week.
 - Greater consistency needed in handing out rewards.
 - Graduation – could the name be changed to something that is less misleading and could an A4 sheet be constructed outlining what it's all about

3 AOB

- Other parents to be encouraged to attend further meetings where topics to be discussed will be published ahead of time as parents might well choose to only come to discuss issues that relate directly to them and their children.
- **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15 March, 6.00pm**