

## Parent Council meeting 12/10/16

Present: P. Challinor, E. Smithson, J. Keeling, H. Gibson, L. Byatt, H. Jones, J. Blinston, A. McCafferty, L. Ostrouchow and S. White

1. Opening prayer
2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising – HG informed the group that the school had previously looked into a cashless system for Lunch payment and at the minute money is the barrier. This would cost somewhere in the region of £20 000.
3. PC – Anti – Bullying. PC took the group through the anti – bullying pledge. Q: Is there a problem within a certain year group? No, but Year 9 and 10 girls are a particular focus. PC has worked strategically to include some of those students that are manipulative/influential into the anti – bullying ambassador group. The pledge has been signed and agreed by directors and LG members. There are 17 anti – bullying ambassadors. This includes members of the student leadership group and bus marshals. Q: How do you stop the ambassadors from getting bullied? Good question! They have been chosen because of their characters. Staff will also be selected as anti – bullying ambassadors. Their offices will become ‘safe rooms’ for students. HJ commented on the anti – bullying meeting that took place last week – how impressive the students were. Two students have face – book pages for students to post their comments on. This is another example of the lines of communication that are open. Q: Should we ban phones during school time? Could these be in students lockers until home time? The group and PC thought this was an excellent idea. HG/PC to raise at LG for discussion. The buses have been raised as an issue – this is why we have started to put ‘bus marshals’ in place. The yard and corridors have also been flagged up as problem areas. As a solution we now have designated areas on the yard for different year groups and staff have a much greater presence during lesson change – over time on the corridors.
4. Science – first impressions and progress from the last parent council meeting (JK). SW (new parent – Year 7) commented on how much her son was enjoying science. There was a suggestion that the first homework set took an hour and a half – JK to look into this. Science has given a very good first impression. HJ commented on the overall improvement in the guidance given on SMHW and the fact that she has not seen tasks that merely say ‘finish off’. This is an improvement since the last meeting when it was raised in June. Parents commented on how much students enjoy the primary transition days in science. Non- feeder school pupils were raised- how can we get them in before the summer term to improve their experience – JK to discuss this in science.
5. MfL (ES) – What are the groups impressions of the new GCSE provision in languages for Year 9 and 10? The groups say that their children enjoy languages and they have no concerns to report. Q: Why do they have to go on a trip if they are not studying that language? ES informed the group that there was a low uptake for the France trip due to the events that took place last year. This means that some students are being asked to go on other trips instead. Q: Why can’t they stick with the language they start with? Wouldn’t this result in a better GCSE result? ES to discuss

with SM (HOD) and report back. ES explained that the idea is that they get to sample all 3 languages before they opt. Extra – curricular – parents not aware of what's on offer – ES to ensure details on the website are up to date and a text is sent home.

6. LPPA – HG informed the group that we have now registered for reaccreditation. More information to follow.
7. HG asked the group to consider either themselves or anyone they know who would like to be selected as a Painsley Foundation Governor – to contact either J. Bradbury or J. Pennington if interested.
8. Dates for the next meetings: 22.11.16; 14.3.17 and 20.6.17
9. AOB – concern raised about headlice in Year 9 – HG to discuss with C. Harris (Pastoral lead for Year 9). The groups asked if R. Waugh could come and discuss the new rewards and sanctions policy next meeting . Mrs Byatt commented on how superb the schools SENCO has been – HG to pass this on.