

## Parent Council meeting 15/3/16

Present: V. Allen, A. Pate, H. Gibson, S. Wilson, J. Blinston, C. Gray, A. McCafferty, L. Byatt and H. Jones.

Apologies: K. Johnson and J. Langford

1. Opening prayer
2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising. HG to check logins for activ8 - RA in science. Check that all staff put HWK onto SMH when they say they will – in good time for students. HG reminded parents that students can come into the school to print HWK off, there are also facilities available at lunchtime.
3. IAG - going for kite mark again this year. VA asked what parents perceptions were of career guidance at Painsley? Discussion about the recent year 8 careers morning and the options evening - this was very well received. KC's role was outlined by VA. Are your children well prepared for their future? What about apprenticeships? Would rather do an apprenticeship than study A levels? Do they understand the difference? Is there anything in the programme to inform parents about A levels? And UCAS? Can we send a generic text to Year 10's. Is there anything we can do better? More information needed on apprenticeships. Dispel the myth that it's the only alternative. Are apprenticeships sold wrongly? Parents don't know anything about apprenticeships - what are the options? Do we cover volunteering? No, but would like to. Voluntary work for hospices - any contacts to VA would be great. Parents IAG information evening - staffs uni were present, apprenticeships were discussed and various workshops - do we think this should run again? Definitely yes - younger students need a better understanding of the whole process.
4. G+T (Lisa Stanway was absent) – HG read through some points and raised a couple of questions.  
How do the parent's feel about stretch and challenge- do they feel that their children are challenged, especially those who consistently hit their target grade? HWK that shows explicit success criteria is excellent and makes it very clear. Never found HWK so good at this school. Parents know what to do to push children. Are there stretch and challenge opportunities provided in all subjects? What about the more able children, not just under the G and T register, but also top performers? Year 7 perspective students are covering harder material. Students are coping well. Parents comment that they have had a reasonable experience with the G+T. What about functional skills? This has been done every year for the last 4/5 years. This is to incorporate a problem solving aspect within Maths. The students also get a qualification for it.
5. Maths and numeracy - AP discussed grading (1-9) in maths. A good pass is a grade 5. Maths course has got more difficult. Following a mastery course (Shanghai) pushing students to really master the topic and the skill. **This involves mastering a topic by frequent practice through variation.** Maths mock for Year 10 will mirror the new style - specimen paper. Reiterate the need to know the timetables. Q: What about students that master the topic where other need longer on the topic? There will be variation - looking at the problem from a different angle. Trying to apply the knowledge.
6. Numeracy – from the 'parent student' tab at the top of the homepage - numeracy booklet this allows parents to support students from home. Q:How would parents know about this? This is something that needs addressing - text home and on the newsletter. Parent workshop would be a good idea to share the numeracy booklet. AP to ensure a text goes home and to consider a numeracy parent workshop.
7. AOB - Next meeting 21/6/16. HG asked all to look at the VLE prior to the next meeting.