

Parent Council meeting - 24/11/15

Present: H. Gibson, E. Smithson, R. Addison, C. Smith, H. Jones, A. McCafferty, J. Shaw, S. Wilson and L. Byatt.

Apologies: C. Gray, J. Langford, J. Blinston, P. Bettany

1. Opening prayer
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matter arising: Regarding the £10 for ingredients in technology – has this now started? How many parents have completed the History questionnaire? HG to explore and feedback
4. Anti-bullying – CS took members through the new anti-bullying policy. A questionnaire has been conducted by staff and students and is due to be sent to all parents. Data to be collated and actions drawn up. CS to consider a parental awareness evening regarding bullying and social media. Members concerned that the parents that we need to reach wouldn't attend. CS to create 'How to' guides for the website/VLE regarding key areas such as privacy settings etc... Findings from the parental questionnaire to determine the needs here. CS will return to the group with outcomes – summer term.
5. MfL – ES discussed the forthcoming trips. Concern re safety were raised in the current climate. Parental advice evening was highlighted; parents will be reminded closer to the time. Year 7-9 focus changing to address demands of new GCSEs. SoL has been adapted in preparation for linear/written assessments with no coursework element. ES explained that assessments will help to prepare students for the new style exam. MfL support is advertised around the department. Both KS3 and KS4 have specific focus days for support. MfL club for KS3 – operates on Wednesday lunchtime. Q: What languages do Year 7 take? This was explained for all year 7 groups and that for next year all year 7 will take Spanish. ES explained that this is being delivered in all Primaries currently in preparation for KS3 and KS4. MfL will conduct a student voice and then a parent voice.
6. Science – RA Q: How well are students supported in science? There was a mixed opinion here whereby students in KS4 were supported well, but students in KS3, particularly year 7 were not supported well. Students' books in year 7 do not provide adequate notes for revision and assessment preparation – RA to explore. RA raised the purchase of revision guides for KS3 and 'activ8' online programme to support KS3 learners in science. An issue raised in Year 9 to be explored also with a particular group. RA to investigate and then contact parent. On a positive note, the enthusiasm of teachers was highlighted as a real strength in science leading to a passion for subject by some students. RA raised the recent drive on SoL development to ensure equality for all learners in science. RA to return to parent council with an update.
7. Parental questionnaire – HG took members through some proposed questions. These will be conducted over the phone to gain a qualitative response from parents of all year groups and all abilities. The aim is for HODs to carrying out something similar for their subject area.
8. AOB – HJ asked how we can encourage more parents to routinely attend the parent council. Members to promote the group and explain the merits of this working partnership. HG to invite parents through parental questionnaire phone calls. It's important that we have a parent for each year group. It was also raised that the time allocation on SMH showed no resemblance to the actual amount of time a piece of homework takes. One example raised was in English where students were allocated a 30 minutes time slot to analyse 20 quotations – HG to feedback on this. It was also raised that when students are given effort points they don't seem to know what they are for. Next meeting 15/3/15 – IAG, G+T and it was requested that the SENCO attend the next meeting or the one in the summer term.