

## MINUTES OF PARENTS' FORUM 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017

### Agenda

- Homework
- Mobile phone use
- Issues by parents
- Parent Governor vacancies

### Homework

Research, from the Sutton Trust was tabled – which shows homework has a big impact, when set regularly and feedback is given and is relevant and meaningful.

There are various options including using online platforms for setting and monitoring homework, which parents were interested in.

#### Feedback from discussion:

A way for parents to see exactly what was set would be useful

Not enough homework set (Yr8 & Yr 10)

Some have a lot (Yr 9)

Option subjects – set a lot. More concern about core, especially when students are behind.

Regular more important than quantity.

Not being set in accordance with Homework Policy

'Go and revise' not helpful. Needs to be targeted.

Need skill of how to learn.

Textbooks gave clarity. Google, cut and paste less helpful

#### A Fell - Summary

Set tasks which are clear, support learning, set regularly.

Variability in amount and quantity from subjects

(Core a concern, some great homework – Music/RE)

AF demonstrated homework on G4S as one solution

(or even just that if he has some)

Planners – students should take responsibility for writing it down.

#### AF – Action

Homework inconsistent with Policy- AF to raise with staff and curriculum leaders

Current policy will remain, although will be reviewed later in the academic year.

On line platform to be reviewed and feedback to parents at the next Forum.

#### Mobile Phones

The use and misuse of mobile phones by students in school was discussed. The increased 3G coverage has encouraged more students to use phones in social times. In addition, the school encourages some phone use in lessons and at home for revision, taking photos of work and curriculum apps. This is perhaps sending out mixed messages. Parents are keen for their children to have phones in case of emergencies.

## **Summary**

There were a range of views, however, the consensus was clear that our current policy of phones being switched off and put away should remain and inappropriate phone use would lead to confiscation

AF to write to parents reinforcing expectations.  
AF to ensure all students were aware of the rules.

## **Supply teachers**

Parent concerns were raised about the amount of supply teachers last term this was due to the coincidence of long term illness and staff sickness. AF explained the measures being put in place which were:

Yr 11 being prioritised

New staffing in place (Maths/Art/ICT and Senior teacher) or in place for September (English)

Bringing in expertise from other schools.

## **Student behaviour in school and on buses**

Concerns were raised about some behaviour of the buses. AF reported that this was difficult as the school does not supply adult bus monitors. Older students do act as bus monitors, although some incidents go unreported. AF indicated that students are not always aware of the actions the school take over poor behaviour. Year heads and SLT are leading on improving bus behaviour.

Heads in place, tracking closely.

## **Transport Issue**

Parent report concern over the unreliability of some buses and the lac of information when buses breakdown. AF to contact bus contractors to ensure parents are informed of breakdowns quickly.

A parent asked if students could travel on buses to visit friends. The bus companies have reported back that this would be difficult to manage.

Next meeting: 13<sup>TH</sup> March 2017