

Parent Forum Minutes
Wednesday, 23 May 2018

Item		Action
1	Apologies	
	Mrs Sybal	
2	Matters arising from Previous Minutes	
	Discussion on the previous meeting. Some of the parents had not received the January invite. We discussed the minutes briefly but they made up the body of the actual meeting below.	Communication system has since been improved.
3	Homework	
	Parents raised concerns that homework was not set, marked or even collected in consistently. Parents said the students know they will not be punished for not handing it in so what's the point in doing it! Parents did not have any notion of SAM Learning or how to actively access Class Charts. They felt pre-set homework on the website might help with this or themes printed in a newsletter. SLT explained that homework was part of the term 6 improvement plan and that steps would take place during term 6 to make the process easier to access and more consistent.	Whole staff approach to homework. SLT to discussed with HOD and plans are in place to enter long term homework.
4	Class Charts	
	Inconsistently used by the parents present. A few never accessing it, others believing it to be useful to track achievement of their child.	SLT to review use. MyEd will be used for communication, Class Charts for homework.
5	Reporting System	
	Parents feel they have not had sufficient information sent home regarding their children this academic year.	JFM explained the new system - graded reports 3 times a year with one profile at the end of the academic year
6	Parent Evenings	
	All felt the timings and noise were an issue. Parents asked if there could be a timer to ensure times were stuck to - much like a primary school system. SLT said we would discuss this further. JFM did reassure parents that they would be spreading tables into the main hub to reflect their concerns regarding the space and noise. JFM also discussed the academic meetings inviting parents in to meet with SLT regarding the curriculum etc. once a year.	Discussion timings in SLT.
7	Newsletter	
	Parents requested a newsletter that comes out at the beginning of every new term to inform them of the term ahead and the one that has passed. Included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who to contact for pastoral concerns • Where to go for lost property • New literacy strategy information • School calendar and whether we are in week 1 or 2 of the timetable when returning from a holiday. • Important dates - trips/events/sporting fixtures etc. in advance so parents can support. • Non uniform days • Bus changes • Half days • Rewards 	Newsletter in place second week term 6. All questions now answered on the website.
8	Study Leave	
	Clear discussion that we do not offer year 11 study leave as we would prefer revision to be taking place in school. All parents agreed with this.	
9	Student welfare	
	Parents raised a concern regarding the welfare system and who was leading this. JFM discussed the role of Mr Agar and his team of 4 pastoral support managers and their importance in all aspects of the students' welfare. Parents were reassured that this was in place and asked that this information be published on the website.	MMU has checked and the information is on the website.
10	SEN	
	Mr Hunt discussed his role. Individuals questioned medical care plans, overlay sheets for readers and concerns with dyslexic students. Mr Hunt went through the process of teachers/parents raising concerns and the testing process. This reassured parents of the active work and where and how to contact him should they feel they have concerns.	

11	Literacy Changes	
	<p>Parents were keen to know about the literacy ambassadors and AR programme. JFM discussed the older students reading with the younger ones in form time and the new emphasis on improving literacy across the school. This was welcomed by parents. They asked if the reading ages could be published and AR test could be completed at home to support the strategy from home. DHU explained the tests could not at this time but he would look into it.</p> <p>Parents also asked that students' reading ages not be aired for other students to hear- in class or at parents evening due to the embarrassment.</p>	<p>DHU to look into AR reading tests.</p> <p>SLT to inform staff to keep reading ages private to students and teacher.</p>
12	Music	
	<p>Parents worried that music was not a priority on the curriculum and their children were not challenged or encouraged to continue with lessons from primary to secondary. JFM explained that it is not through choice but the transfer from primary to secondary is not that straight forward. JFM explained that PRI is bringing in outside singing teachers and allowing Kent Music Company to use our facilities after school to strengthen the importance of music to the school. We also have a new music specialist starting in September who is keen to encourage bands, shows etc.</p>	
13	PE	
	<p>Do the students have enough time to complete a full PE curriculum. Parents believe the students take too long getting ready and this restricts how much sport is actually happening.</p>	<p>SLT to discuss changing the routine with PE.</p>
14	AOB	
	<p>Checked over information requests for the newsletter.</p>	