



Parent Forum Minutes

Wednesday 13th February 2019 6:00 – 7.30pm

Attendees from school: James O’Connell (Principal), Jon Newman (Senior Vice Principal), Gill Endacott (Vice Principal), Samantha Atkinson (Assistant Principal).

Parents: Approximately 40 parents attended from all Years 7-11.

The following is a list of the items discussed, a brief description of the discussion and a response from the school to points raised:

Item	Discussion	Outcome where appropriate
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General consensus is that communications are improving; for example: letters on the website, Facebook posts, lots of general information on the website, communication with teachers (Yr11 teachers especially) is generally very good with lots of positive information, emails are usually responded to quickly. • Website could be made easier to use and kept more up to date. • Suggestion to opt in or out of electronic communications. • Some paper communications not reaching home. Would like to see more information about after school clubs and PE fixtures in a timely manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new website has just been launched which, we hope parents and visitors will find, greatly enhances access and navigation to news stories, events and key information. • We are making the updating of information on our new website a priority. • The new website comes with a new app which we will be making available very shortly. Parents can download this app which enables us to send general and specific information and messages in a simple and timely manner.
Parents’ Evenings and Review Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many parents appreciate parents’ evenings and having the opportunity to talk to multiple teachers. • Review Days felt to be less useful, and also less relevant as the students get older. They also have an impact on parents’ work commitments. • Would like more information on grades and target setting. • Would like to see a calendar of main events at the beginning of each year or term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have now established parents’ evenings for Years 9, 10 and 11. • We are committed to the review days of the 2018/19 academic year but we will conduct a full parental consultation to establish whether to continue with them at all next year. • We are reviewing our reports’ format and will send out advice and guidance information with the next set of reports. • We will include key dates for each term in the Principals’ half-termly letter and on the website.
Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General feeling is that behaviour in the school is good. • Perception from some students and parents that the use of the behaviour system is inconsistent and that repeat offenders are a problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are working hard as staff to fairly make boundaries and expectations clear to students. Staff also feel that we are making good progress and behaviour is improving.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole class warnings or detentions not appropriate or fair. • Have seen improvements since January with the new BFL system and the removal of 24hr isolation. • Merit system inconsistent – should be reinforcing and rewarding good behaviour. • The Christmas Market rewards trip was well liked and appreciated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to make behaviour management and processes a priority and we are running further training on this area. • We totally agree that whole class warnings or punishments are not fair or good practice and we will ensure that these are not applied. • We will review our merits and rewards system and commit to making this more proportionate, celebratory and fair.
Homework and Classcharts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much better than the student planners. • Some inconsistencies around setting homework. • Would like to see more detail on what is expected, an outline of the topics each term, and feedback on marking to students and parents. • Revision strategies and techniques to be incorporated more from Year 9 upwards. • Some parents feel that there is not enough homework, or that homework is not suitable, e.g. posters. • There is lots of after school support and revision activities available for Year 11s. • Recent PPEs were a good encouragement for Year 11 students. Suggested peer mentoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will revisit Class Charts and seek to ensure that all homework is set on this powerful tool. • We are just beginning a review of homework setting – its consistent regularity and quality for learning. • We will seek to build on our development of revision and independent learning skills – for year 11 and all years. • We are developing some peer mentoring and will seek to build on this powerful tool for students’ learning and development.