



PARENT FORUM MINUTES – 12th February 2020

Attendees:

Mr O’Connell, Mrs Carpenter, Ms Housecroft, Ms Atkinson and Mr Lewis

Item	Notes	Action
<p>Curriculum and Timetable Changes</p>	<p>Parents are generally feeling positive about the change to a two week timetable and like the idea of 5 lessons per day, especially for younger students. Some hesitation over double lessons in KS3, but seen as acceptable for KS4. Parents would like to have the timetable during the holiday’s so that students can familiarise themselves with it.</p> <p>Pros and cons of shorter breaks – they will reduce antisocial behaviour and all students will be able to get food and socialise; some concerns over whether shorter breaks are good for social skills. One suggestion was to gain parental feedback on finishing slightly later to allow for a longer lunchbreak, like TGGS do.</p> <p>Parents happy with the decision not to delay choosing options until Yr9. Only concern is how to help support students with a two year KS4. Will students be able to learn the content in the shorter time? Concerns about assessments and target grades being based on content that hasn’t been taught.</p> <p>Parents are pleased with the inclusion of PHSE in the curriculum.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. We are still considering the length of break times, and whether to make the first and second break equal lengths or not.</p> <p>We are doing a lot of work to ensure that the new curriculum is both enriching and enables students to make good progress. We will ensure that students are not penalised by doing their GCSEs and BTECs over two years. The advantage with this is they don’t have to recall information taught longer than 18 months ago, and they will have studied all of the key information at a time when their brains are more mature and developed.</p> <p>We are working on the PSHE curriculum and content carefully and determined to make this a success.</p>
<p>Supporting Students’ Needs</p>	<p>Some parents have had issues with contacting teachers but not getting any response.</p> <p>Parents would like an evening on how to support their children with SEMH. Parents would like to know how the school supports students with medical issues who aren’t on the SEND register, and how gifted and talented students are supported. Suggested “learning leaders” in History.</p> <p>Parents would like the school to consider how the curriculum is communicated on the website so that parents and students can access and understand the information.</p> <p>Would like to see more recognition of students’ successes.</p>	<p>All teachers’ email addresses are listed on our website under the first title on the menu: ‘About Us’ – ‘Staff List’. If you email and don’t receive a response within 48 hours, please contact the head of faculty and then the Principal if required.</p> <p>CAL (our learning support provision) are now running meetings once every half term for parents of students with SEN in targeted meetings for each year group. We will look to run some evenings specifically on SEMH.</p> <p>The website is very soon (by May 2020) going to be updated with our new curriculum plans.</p> <p>We plan to launch our Awards’</p>

		Evening this summer and know that we have lots more to do in celebrating students' success more frequently and better.
AOB	<p>Parents are happy with the move away from Review Days to Parents' Evenings and have found the experience much more beneficial and valuable.</p> <p>Homework can be inconsistent and depends on the subject and teacher. Suggested allocation of homework on the website does not match the level of homework set on Class Charts. No feedback given on the quality of the homework. Can staff be reminded about using mobile phones in lessons for learning purposes? Can parents be shown how to access resources to help with revision?</p> <p>Not all students aware of the recycling club. If parents know about the eco-bricks, they will help. Suggested holding a competition and trying to get sponsorship to help with prizes. Suggest using recycling bins to generate money for the school. Can food be recycled for compost?</p> <p>Suggestion made for prefects mentoring class reps.</p> <p>Parents are happy to support fundraising opportunities and suggested a lottery or a BBQ. Suggested that parents could be surveyed about whether they would be interested in taking part in a fundraising opportunity.</p>	<p>We will continue to push homework and improve on this. We think that as a school we have made some progress but we need to get better with the quality and consistency of this.</p> <p>We are working on the recycling and environmental plans and have started rotating litter picking duties for all and more recycling availabilities.</p> <p>We are hoping to launch a PTA within our school in the next year and will welcome fund-raising activities and opportunities. Thank you!</p>