

Parents' Forum Minutes

4th June 2015

1. Homework Proposals

Mr Whalley explained the proposals, and rationale behind them, with regards to changes to homework for Year 7 students from September. There is always an issue with the transition from Year 6 to Year 7, with students not coping with the amount of homework set. The proposal is that up to October half term, Year 7 students will only have homework set in English, Maths and Science. After October half term this will include History, Geography and Languages, and after Christmas homework will be set in all subjects.

Mr Whalley asked for thoughts on this, and all present agreed that this would be a good thing.

A question was raised if there is Frog training for parents? Mr Whalley replied that a brief introduction to Frog is made at the Year 6 Parents' Transition Evening, and then a training session is provided for parents at the Year 7 Curriculum Evening, which is held 5/6 weeks into the Autumn term.

2. School Communication

Mr Whalley explained that even though home/school communication came out as 'good' on the recent Kirkland Rowell survey, the school was always looking at ways to improve communication and asked parents if they had any suggestions on how this could be done?

The feedback was:-

- It is sometimes difficult to get through to certain members of teaching staff if you have a query. *Mr Whalley explained that the first port of call should be the relevant Head of Year on their direct number, as they are a gateway into school and can direct parents to the right person.*
- Notes in planners are a good way of communicating with parents.
- Parent Call works well.
- All parents present were very positive about Facebook and Twitter as a means of communication.

Mr Whalley asked that if any parents had any concerns about staff not responding to messages they contact him direct on whalleyj@flhs.wigan.sch.uk

3. Planners

Mrs Michalakakos explained that there are plans to change the student planners from September. The three options, which are being considered, were shared with parents. The consensus of opinion was option 2, with a separate page to record rewards, loss of rewards, attendance etc.

4. AOB

- A query was raised as to whether students should earn merits/rewards points for attending band rehearsals in the same way that students earn reward points that attend other after school clubs? *Mr Whalley explained that the whole rewards system is being re-vamped and re-launched in September and hopefully this would alleviate any discrepancies/confusion that currently stand.*
- The recent E-Safety evening was poorly attended, perhaps because it fell on the same day as the General Election. Mr Whalley proposes to hold another E-Safety evening early in the Autumn term and it was suggested that the session be aimed at parents and students together.

5. Date of next meeting

Thursday 8th October 2015, 6pm