

Parents' Forum Minutes

8th October 2015

1. Reward System

Mrs Michalakakos gave an explanation of the new Reward System, which was introduced in September. This has been a success so far, with more rewards being handed out. The rewards given are not for good behaviour, but for students who try hard consistently and hand in good pieces of work. The system is to be reviewed at the end of the academic year to ensure that it is working okay.

Comments/questions on the new system were invited:

A parent commented that her daughter loves the new system.

There was a question regarding loss of rewards and whether there is anything built into the system for this. Mrs Michalakakos explained the Loss of Credit system, which runs alongside the Rewards System.

A question was raised about how staff ensure that the system is equitable. It was explained that the Reward System is closely monitored, with Form Tutors receiving a report of students who have gained a reward and for which subject the reward has been given. The relevant Head of Year will also get the report and will be able to see an overview for the Year Group.

2. Homework

Parents' views were sought on the changes to Year 7 homework which came into effect in September, where students only get homework in core subjects up to October half term.

The feedback was: -

- The new system is much better for Year 7 students.
- This is a good idea. My daughter, who is now in Y8 was very disheartened with the amount of homework she was receiving at the beginning of Y7, but this has eased off now. The homework is of good quality and relevant to what she is doing. Maths go over the homework done to identify areas of weakness.
- My child in Y11 does not seem to receive much homework.

3. Safeguarding

Information was given on the Government's Prevent Strategy, which is being introduced to train staff on how to spot the signs of radicalisation. All staff are to be trained in November and students are to be shown a video about Nicky Reilly, from Plymouth, who got involved in extreme Islam.

A question was raised as to whether the same video will be shown to all year groups. It was explained that KS4 students had already seen the video in assembly; this will possibly be shown to Year 9 students, but Year 7/Year 8 students would not be watching it for a while.

A query was raised regarding training for parents. Mr Whalley said that the school would look at putting on another e-safety evening, which could include Prevent training.

4. Assessment Without Levels

The group were updated on the progress of Assessment Without Levels since the presentation at the previous Parents' Forum meeting.

5. AOB

- A concern was raised by a parent who was concerned that the amount of medical appointments her son has to attend are affecting his attendance and the possibility of him being allowed on end of term reward trips. *Mr Whalley explained that the Head Of Year has discretion when it comes to reward trips, and if there is a genuine reason why attendance is below the required % the student would be allowed to go on the trip.*
- A query was raised as to where the school advertises if they are collecting supermarket vouchers etc. *It was agreed that if the school is participating in any of the supermarket schemes that this would be on the school website.*
- Mr Whalley explained that new electric gates had been installed at the front of school to help to safeguard the students. Parents are requested not to come onto the school site at the start/end of the day to drop off/pick up their children.

6. Date of next meeting

Thursday 11th February 2016, 6pm