

# **Parents' Forum Minutes**

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

## **1. Communication with Parents**

Mr Gallimore explained that the school is currently reviewing the systems currently in place for communicating with parents and looking at ways to improve them. Current means of communication include Parent Text, letters home, website, email and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

Mr Gallimore informed parents that some schools are going down the 'App' route and that FLHS are currently looking at different companies to see what is on offer.

The view from parents present was that there is already a good mix and everything seems to work well.

A query was raised that Frog doesn't seem to be used like it used to be. Mr Whalley answered that staff are encouraged to set work on Frog but we don't insist. The system does need reviewing as to how effective it still is.

## **2. Parent View**

Parents were encouraged to go onto the OFSTED site and complete the Parent View Survey, as parental feedback is very valuable to us.

To access the survey parents need to Google 'Ofsted Parent View' and follow the registration instructions. The whole process should only take 5 minutes. There is also a link to the survey on our website.

Mr Whalley thanked parents who had already completed the survey.

## **3. Year 9 Options Feedback**

There were no parents of Y9 students present at the meeting to provide any feedback. Mr Thomson explained the process for the evening, as this will affect Year 8 students who have their Parents'/Options evening on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

The Parents' Evening runs as normal and at the end of the evening subject specialists will be available in a 'Market Place' to provide further subject information. Letters are due to go home soon and Year 8 students will be spoken to in an assembly. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available to talk to on the evening. After the evening, students will then have a couple of weeks to 'fact find' and talk to staff to gather further before they make their options.

Concern was expressed that some students are too young and immature to be making decisions that affect their future. Mrs Garretts explained that it has been a really tough decision on the school to move to a three year KS4, but the higher content GCSE's need more time. The other option was to drop an option and stick with a two year KS4 but it was felt that this limits the breadth of education that students receive.

## **Parents' Forum Minutes**

**9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

### **4. AOB**

- Concern was raised regarding the lack of book choice in the library. Mr Whalley explained that we now have a new librarian who has been chasing up outstanding books (1500 books were missing). Over 1200 of these books have now been returned, so hopefully the choice should improve. Mrs Garretts said the school would take on board what has been raised and look at the overall provision of books in the library.
- A suggestion was raised that the time of the Parents' Forum should be moved to 6.30pm to accommodate parents who may struggle to get here for 6pm. This will be trialled at the next meeting.
- A question was asked regarding the progress of the proposed MAT conversion. Mrs Garretts explained that this is currently on hold at the moment whilst some financial issues are sorted out. We are now hoping for a conversion date of April 2018.

**The next meeting is scheduled to take place at Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 6.30pm.**