

# Parents' Forum Minutes

11 February 2016

## 1. Planners

Parents were informed that the school is looking to review the planner for next September. Students have been consulted to say what they want from a planner and a scrutiny of planners has been undertaken to see how they are being used. It was found that the Personal Study Guide isn't being used effectively and the Target Sheets aren't being used because of the revised Marking Policy. The question is, is the planner better just being a Homework planner?

Parents were asked for their views which were as follows: -

- I look at my daughter's planner to encourage her to do her homework
- I use the planner to check what my child has done in the day so I can ask questions
- A guide in the planner to explain jargon to parents would be useful

Staff will be consulted before a final decision regarding the planner is made.

## 2. New Rewards Policy

Parents were informed that the new Rewards Policy - 'Right click and Reward' appears to be working well with over 22,000 rewards given out since September.

Feedback from the students is that they love the new system and are motivated by it.

## 3. KS4 Curriculum - possible changes from September 2017

Parents were informed of the school's proposals to introduce a three year KS4 from September 2017. This would affect students currently in Year 7, as they are the group that will be the first ones to sit the new style GCSE's which will be graded 1-9. The students would choose their options at the end of Year 8. This would give them extra time to study for the new heavier content exams.

Parent's expressed concern that students would be too young to make such major decisions, and also that they would be losing their breadth of subjects

The school acknowledged that they would be weighing up the pros and cons before a decision is made.

## 4. Assessment without levels and Progress Review Day

The Progress Review Day before Christmas was the first one without levels and also the first time that students had been asked to bring in a piece of work to talk about. Parents' views on the day were as follows: -

- The reports were quite straightforward to understand
- I'm not clear on how my child needs to improve
- My child usually gets a Platinum Award but this time only got a Silver

The school acknowledged that there had been a drop in the number of students getting awards and it is something that is being looked at as they don't want to de-motivate students. It is now harder to get a Bronze Award and students are aware of this. Students are graded on their attitude to learning to reflect the changes in the exams.

## 5. Homework

Parents' views were sort on the new Homework Policy for Year 7, which meant that up until October half term they only received homework in the core subjects and had a Home Learning Project to complete for DT.

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The feedback from the Y7 parents present was that they felt it worked really well and the students were less anxious. Feedback regarding homework in the other year groups was that it is well balanced with not too much set during school holiday.

Parents were informed of a new homework facility is being launched at the Kings Centre in Tyldesley. This will be on every Monday and Wednesday 3.30pm-5pm. The other homework facilities available for students are 'Hot Frogs' at Shackerley Community Centre, which is on every Tuesday and Thursday 3.30pm-5pm, and there's the Homework Club in the Library, which is on every night 3pm-4pm.

### **6. AOB**

- Concern was raised about the number of students who are riding bikes without lights on. *School will re-iterate the safety message to students in assemblies.*

**Date/Time of next meeting: Thursday 19 May, 6pm**