

Parents' Forum Minutes 12th October 2017

1. SIMS App

Parents' views were sought on the new SIMS App, which has recently been launched.

The overall view is that the App is really good and useful.

Questions raised:-

(i) Will homework be put onto the App?

The App will eventually be used to record Homework set. It is hoped that this will be up and running by the end of November once staff have been trained.

(ii) Is there any way that you can only receive information relevant to your child's year group?

There are teething issues at the moment, but this is something we are working on.

(iii) Is there any way parents can see which department rewards have been issued from?

This is something the school will need to look in to.

(iv) If my child's attendance doesn't appear to be correct what do I need to do?

There are certain times when a register isn't always done on-line immediately, PE lessons for example. This is normally sorted by the end of the week when all missing marks are entered. However, if you feel that your child's attendance figure is incorrect please contact the Attendance Officer, Ms Rea, on the attendance line.

(v) Is the App going to replace Frog?

Yes, we are in an interim phase at the moment. There are a lot of resources on Frog, but a new Server is needed in school in order that these can be transferred over.

(vi) What else will the App be used for?

Reports will be sent out via the App. It is hoped that this will be up and running by Christmas with the ultimate aim to be paperless.

2. Change to School Day

Mr Whalley asked for any feedback on the changes to the school day and if parents had come across any issues?

The feedback was really positive and there were no issues raised.

3. Progress Review Evening

The first of the new style Progress Review Evening was held recently and parents' views were sought.

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One parent felt that this was just a tick box exercise and more for the students benefit than the parents.

Mr Whalley explained that the Progress Review Evenings would be being held for all other year groups over the course of the year.

4. Curriculum Evening feedback

Curriculum Evenings have recently been held for Years 9 and 11 and an opportunity was given for parents to give their thoughts/feedback from these evenings.

One parent who had attended both the evenings was not sure what the objective was.

Mr Davies explained that the school is trying to engage parents and give them an overview of the year ahead for their child.

Feedback from the Year 9 event was that the evening was really useful. The booklet issued was very informative and re-iterated the options information.

A request was made that the school give more information on which reference books and study guides would be useful to purchase. Mr Davies is to look into this.

5. AOB

- **Student Safety Letter** - concern was raised about the vagueness of the recent 'student safety' letter which was sent home. Mr Whalley explained that 'stranger danger' alerts are received in school from all over Wigan on a regular basis. There have been a few incidents recently of men of various descriptions approaching students in these stranger danger alerts. The letter was meant to remind students of the importance of walking home with friends and not on their own. The school liaises regularly with the local police.
- **School Dinners** - a parent raised a query over the menu in the canteen, as her son always seems to have pizza. Mr Whalley responded that the school have recently met with Metrofresh and there is now a new menu with more variety,
- **Queues at lunchtime** – concern was raised that students are going without lunch because the queues are too long. Mr Whalley explained that the queues are long at the start of lunch but usually die down after about 20 minutes.
- **Year 10 Curriculum** – a query was raised regarding setting of students in Year 10. Students are set for English, Maths and Science, but are their other subjects taught in mixed ability classes? Mr Davies replied that because of the options, it is not always possible to set in option subjects.
- **Year 9 Classes** – are the Year 9 sets going to change or are they finalised? Mr Davies explained that the sets would remain as they are for now but will be reviewed at Christmas.
- **Meetings to discuss student progress** – do parents have to wait until Progress Review/Parents' Evenings to discuss their child's progress? Mr Whalley explained

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that if a parent would like to discuss their child's progress they should contact the Head of Year to arrange an appointment.

- ***Options in Year 8*** – with students taking their options at the end of Year 8 are they stuck with those subjects or is there scope for them to change? Mrs Garretts replied that the benefit of the 3 year KS4 is that there is scope for changes to be looked at if a student feels like they have made the wrong choice.
- ***Year 11 Students*** – Year 11 students have just attended a Careers Convention. Is there anything that parents needs to be aware of regarding college applications? It was explained that all students complete their college applications on the UCAS website during their careers lessons. They have to apply for 2 colleges by Christmas.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 6pm on Thursday 8th February 2018.