

## **Parents' Forum Minutes**

**19<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

### **1. Parents' Events**

The school is looking at changing Parents' Evenings and incorporating them with the chance to also speak to parents to inform them of current issues, such as curriculum changes etc.

This was first trialled earlier in the year with Y9's, with a combined Options/Parents' evening. Parent feedback from that evening was taken into account and the format of the evening for the Y10 Parents'/Curriculum evening was amended. Feedback from this event was much more positive.

Parents were concerned that it's a lot to pack into one night, especially in Years 7 and 8. It was explained that any information given out in the evening would also be put on the website.

### **2. E-Safety training for parents**

Parents noted that there has been a reduction in the number of E-safety issues from last year, which is positive. The school proposes to put on an E-safety evening for parents. After discussion it was decided that the best time for this would be early in the next academic year, perhaps before October half term. Mr Whalley to arrange.

### **3. Parents' feedback on reports**

Feedback on the new style reports has been mainly positive and any feedback is welcomed as we are looking to improve all the time. The school is conscious that parents do need more information.

Points raised by parents:-

- I like how you can go on the SIMS Learning Gateway and compare term on term.
- Year 7 - hard as there is nothing to compare with.

### **4. Attendance**

Parents were informed that attendance has been hit with term time holidays and our attendance has dropped by nearly 1%, although we are still above the National Average of 94.4%.

It was noted that one of the main factors of this was the difference in Easter holidays across schools. During this period there was 1100 unauthorised sessions.

### **5. New PE kit**

Details of the new PE kit, which is coming into effect from September, was shared. The current PE kit is not suitable for the cold weather.

The new kit will be compulsory for all Year 7 students from September with the rest of the school being able to buy as and when needed, but will be compulsory from September 2017.

The new kit is reasonably priced and is available from our four suppliers.

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### 6. AOB

- Why is the Y7 Parents Evening so late in the year? It's so late that we cannot address any issues.

*One of the reasons is we try to space out parents talking to teachers. Progress Review Day at the end of the autumn term is the key time to talk to staff and we try to encourage all parents to attend this event.*

- The exam week came out the blue. If it was on the calendar we would have prepared the children better.

*We realise that and a letter should have gone home - it will next time. The dates will also be in the planner next year.*

Dates for the Parent Forums for the next academic year will be emailed out and put on the website as soon as available.