

## Parents' Forum Minutes

### 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018

#### 1. Show my Homework

Mr Davies explained about SMHW and why we are using it instead of SIMS App for homework. Launched now so the summer term can be used to get used to it ready for it to be fully used in September. Feedback was it's really good, easy to log on to and intuitive. Good for reminders and being aware of what students have been set.

Questions or concerns? No concerns but does it show the marks of the homework? There is a facility to grade it but we will look at that as we roll it out.

There are a few glitches regarding logging on and off and any issues should be referred to the IT team by students.

**Planners** - Mr Davies advised that planners won't be used in September due to not being needed for homework and having other ways of communicating with parents. Students will have a pocket notebook to organise themselves. New students will be given lots of information, that would normally be within the planner, before they start. Some of this information will also be included in the notebook.

#### 2. Feedback on Parents' Evenings

Mr Whalley explained that attendance at Parents' Evenings is excellent but he is aware that some parents have to queue to see some teachers and it can be a long evening. We could look at other ways of running the evening such as limiting appointments to 5 minutes or look at making appointments.

Parents were asked to give feedback:-

*Maybe limit the appointment times and deal with specific (lengthy) issues at another time?*

*Put in the letter that appointments will be 5 minutes?*

*Splitting the event over 2 nights?* It was noted that this would be too much for staff.

*Maybe issue a standard template of topics to be discussed and ask parents to return beforehand and then school can decide whether any can be dealt with away from the parents' evening?*

The group accepted that waiting is necessary and that they are used to it and target which order to see teachers. It was discussed what systems are used at other schools and felt that FLHS system was more effective.

To move this forward Mr Whalley will ask staff to limit meeting times, when there are queues, and will communicate that there is a 5 minute limit to parents prior to the evening.

#### 3. SIMS App

Mr Davies updated parents on the SIMS App. Some of the issues encountered are due to waiting for software updates. It is good for informing parents about rewards and behaviour points but lacks a little detail about which teachers have given rewards. It is good for

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providing data to Parents on progress but some enhancements are slow in being addressed by Capita.

*Can the App or SMHW show exam results so parents can see what progress is made?*

Mr Davies explained that we can't issue a report for all subjects as there will be gaps for subjects who haven't tested. Exams inform projected grades but it's accepted that it would be useful for parents to know. This will be raised with Head of Faculties at their weekly meeting.

### 4. Feedback on Monday week B's

Mr Whalley fed back on how the Monday B training sessions were being received. No decision has been made for next year but feedback from school staff is positive and benefits have been realised. They have made a big impact on staff morale and have given departments quality time to plan jointly and to look at strategies for collecting interim data. It ensures that training can be drip fed and is more effective and the school is more responsive.

### 5. Real World Curriculum Plans

Mr Davies spoke about the 3 year KS4 giving more time to study GCSE's but sometimes it is difficult to engage students at the beginning of the key stage and get them to focus on where the subject will take them. The idea is to get students out to meet industry specialists so they can see how the skills are used in the real world. Some discussions with faculties have been really positive with some great ideas that will get students to think about the link to careers and their aspirations.

### 6. AOB

A) *There was talk about a partnership with another academy (MAT). Has it progressed?*

This has been put on back burner due to financial issues initially and viability is a doubt. Due to the delay the government focus has now shifted and there isn't the urgency or incentive to become a MAT.

B) *I've hear the end of year concert isn't happening this year?*

There is a specific set of circumstances as to why there isn't a concert this year due to health and absences. This will be a one off. We will have a Christmas concert and a concert next summer.

C) *I've seen on Twitter an advert for instrumental teachers. When will parents be informed?*

The lessons shouldn't change and the advert is to attract more talent to enhance our current IMT provision. The tutors will be self employed and will give the school more flexibility in delivering the lessons.

D) *Road safety - can tutors speak to students about road safety after a couple of incidents this week involving students.*

This is currently being emphasised to students and parents especially around cycling and wearing helmets. It's an issue at most schools and is seen as being 'uncool' to wear a helmet. We have 40-50 students cycling to school and we will keep giving out the safety messages. *Can we look at Bikeability sessions?* We will look into it and see if it's something we can offer to younger students.