

# Parents' Forum Minutes

26<sup>th</sup> February 2015

## 1. Bus timetables and updates

Mr Whalley, Deputy Headteacher, gave parents an update on our efforts to secure a school bus. Greater Manchester Transport turned down our request due to funding cuts. However, they have adjusted the time of the number 32 bus in the mornings to ensure that students can get to school on time. They have not agreed to alter the time of the afternoon bus. We continue to try to influence GMPTE on this issue.

An issue was raised regarding the cancellation of after school clubs at short notice, and whether Parent Call could be used to inform parents. The school will look into this, but agreed that such cancellations should be kept to an absolute minimum.

## 2. Homework

Mrs Michalakakos, Director of Learning KS3, updated parents with where the school currently stands regarding its homework arrangements and the possibility of introducing a homework timetable. Students have been surveyed and a selection of parents were also surveyed on Progress Review Day. The results of the surveys were split. The school has decided to wait until the results of the recent Kirkland Rowell surveys are known before a decision is made. Parents will be kept informed. Issues raised included:

- Concern that sometimes homework is set to be handed in the next day – it was stressed that this should not happen and parents are asked to raise this with the school if it does;
- A parent raised the fact that the some homework currently being set in Y8 has not yet been set for her daughter's class, due to the absence of the class teacher – Mrs Michalakakos agreed to look into this;
- Some concern that work started in school, to be finished at home, cannot always be done if the software used in school isn't available at home – parents were reminded that if this is a problem, students have the opportunity to do their homework after school at homework club or during lunchtimes;
- There were positive comments made regarding the Home Learning Projects;
- Concern expressed when homework is not marked - this is not acceptable practice and if this happens, parents are asked to alert school;
- Frog was proving to be a useful "checking tool" for some parents.

## 3. Parents' views on E-Safety

Mr Whalley explained that students in school are educated in E-Safety and how to keep themselves safe on-line, and asked if parents would welcome a session on this. It was agreed that this would be a good idea –Mr Whalley will identify a date after Easter and communicate this to parents. In the meantime, Year 8 parents were invited to a session to follow the Year 8 Curriculum Evening.

## 4. Assessment without levels

Mr Davies, Deputy Headteacher, outlined the changes to National Curriculum levels. He explained that the school's Management Board had taken the decision to remove levels across the whole school from September, in line

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with Department for Education policy. He gave a brief presentation on how this would work and explained that

each student would, for each subject, be placed in a pathway linked to their expected GCSE grade for that subject. Students will move between pathways dependent on the progress made, as shown in their interim grades.

A sample report showing how the new system would be reported to parents was shared. Comments were invited:

- The consensus of opinion was that the new system will be a lot simpler to understand than levels and that the old system "Red, Amber, Green" could be off-putting for students;
- A question was raised as to how often students would be able to move between pathways – this will be reviewed termly after each interim;

Any feedback on the above move would be welcome and parents are invited to email Mr Davies directly on [daviesp@flhs.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:daviesp@flhs.wigan.sch.uk).

### **5. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm

### **6. AOB**

A parent raised the concern that some learning time was lost through Progress Review Days and each end of term when school closes early. It was explained that school feels that the benefits of Progress Review Days outweigh the disadvantage and that they represented time well spent. At the end of term students are tired and spending time on the last day with their forms and having whole school assemblies where students can showcase their talents to each other is part of the ethos of the Freddie's family and of students' wider social education.