

Minutes of Parent Partnership Meeting

Held on Thursday 11 May 2017

Present: Esther Das, Jackie Shave, Rosie Barrack, Emma Youngman, Rachel Riches, Sarah Moore, Jo Oliver, Gillian Tate, Jackie Hay, Catherine Sotiriou, Diane Chilvers

Apologies: Val Lamond-Mattocks, Julia Parsons, Sarah Brown

Minutes of the last meeting were recorded as accurate.

Main Item: Humanities – Mr Harrington

- Ethos – outlined the wider context of humanities – key for the modern world.
- Outcomes – very good last year. +0.29 – top quartile performance in national measures.
- Mr Harrington went through the curriculum in each humanities subject.
- Future developments:
 - ♦ redesign KS3 curriculum
 - ♦ work with Holocaust Education Trust
 - ♦ wider extra curricular opportunities
 - ♦ collaboration with Suffolk One to support students with environmental investigations
 - ♦ development of cross-curricular themed investigations in Year 7.
- All courses have literacy element – more demand for extended answers, especially in Geography.

Bouquets

1. Ski trip organisation, especially Miss Steward
2. Year 11
3. Mr Lynch – HOD dealt with issue quickly
4. Head of Year 7 – Mrs Goddard – dealt with bullying quickly. All sorted.
5. Mrs Blackiston – PE – followed up concern at end of day

AOB

1. Sports Day – where is £5 going to? Which charity? Clarification to go on the Website.
It is likely to be EACH as this is who we supported last time and the students feel it is a worthy cause.
2. Unknown marks on attendance on Go4Schools
There should not be any unknown marks on the system. The attendance office chases staff if registers are not completed. If a student is not in school and we think they should be, or they have a mixture of marks, the Attendance office always contacts home. The Attendance office will always address and amend any outstanding marks within 24 hours.
- 3 Detention issues – reply slips not signed.
Detention is one of the sanctions schools can use in cases of misbehaviour. Section 5 of the Education Act 1997 gives schools authority to detain pupils after the end of a school session on disciplinary grounds. The following section of the policy details the legal position for schools as laid down in the 2011 Education Act:

The Education Act 2011 removes the legal requirement to give parents 24 hours' notice before detaining pupils after school. The Act confirms schools' powers to use detentions by making it lawful for schools to put students aged under 18 in detention without parental consent at a variety of times outside school hours.

We let parents know out of courtesy but legally we do not have to do so.

4. How can we resolve issue between student and teacher?
It is likely to be done in a way that suits the particular situation and the people involved. Certainly both parties are given the chance to discuss the issue and whatever comes out of these discussions is addressed.
5. Inconsistency of frequency of marking
This has been shared with the senior leadership team and will be addressed in readiness for the next school year.
6. HE Funding Information – Mr Leach and Mr Hall – When?
Reply from Mr Leach: The higher education day and evening was due to be the 14 June, but as a result of Year 12 coming back on 15 June due to a Maths exam on the 14 June, I have had to rearrange the date. I am looking at the parents' information evening being Wednesday 21 June at the moment and a letter will be sent home to parents to confirm w/b 15 May.
7. Sports Day – what are all children going to do? Alternatives
Reply from Mr Yorke: Those who feel unable to compete in the activities I am happy to have as assistants and runners for the day. Things like marshalling and helping the Copleston Mile or assisting in the obstacle course etc.
8. Year 8 Reports - when printed off, the report doesn't show current progress.
We stopped reporting progress on the reports because it caused such a lot of distress to parents and pupils. We opted instead for "Progress towards target" comments so that parents would have a reasonable idea as to whether there is cause for concern or not.
9. Positives – not applicable
 - Staff are advised to add positive comments, but it's difficult to make it mandatory
 - Reply slips were sent home with pupils... I will amend the "blurb" at the top of the report to make mention of a reply slip so that parents can ask for it, or know to search their child's bag. There is no facility to add a reply slip option to reports via G4S.
 - We adjusted the way that progress shows to make it positive progress away from baseline, rather than progress towards target. The former just shows blue, the latter shows in different colours (as does the detailed progress section viewable by parents), and was largely red, hence distress caused (above!). We can raise a ticket with G4S to see if this is a development they might add, but it won't necessarily happen, or happen quickly even if it is something they think there is demand for!
10. Year 8 reports good!
11. Research websites
A reminder email has gone out again to staff. If it is a specific member of staff then please let the Head of Department know and it will be addressed.

Next Meeting:

Mr Yorke, Head of PE.