

Parent Forum Minutes: (26-11-2020)

WA Feedback on this year

- Discussion of attendance and start back from September. College started on 96% but this has dipped to 83% due to number of recent COVID cases. We currently have 90 children out due to isolation which is either due to isolation from contact within College or illness of family member.
- There have been a number of calls with public health and these have driven our practice to isolate any students that are within a metre distance on seating plans.
- There was a positive response to the closure from social media. The children have all adapted really well. A health and safety representative visited in October and this went well and confirmed that all measures were appropriate and safe.
- WA expressed pride that our children are still going around the College to different classrooms to be taught by subject specialists in specialist rooms.
- WA then updated on new SEND provision which has removed 1-1 Child-TA practice and removal of hub as 'dumping ground.' TAs are now running 6 weekly intervention sessions instead which include Lego therapy and Stop Motion Photography. Mr Newman set up forest school and is now setting up a further intervention where two old Mini cars will be stripped and rebuilt. These interventions are in place to improve speech and language skills and confidence.
- Miss Campbell (Vice Principal) is doing data validations to address data accuracy that has been too favourable in previous years. This was particularly so historically in 3 subject areas.
- WA then shared new mock methodology which moves mocks from being in a two week condensed period and spreads them over an 8 week period to reduce stress and increase validity
- WA shared that Mr Yendell was leaving at Christmas for an external promotion and that Mr Hulbert had been appointed and in addition, Mr Aird to lead on parent liaison.

Role of Parent Forum

- Clare introduced concept of forum and invited floor to consider what its role is.
- WA stated that its role was to act as a critical friend. Surveys follow events, so feedback more often is vital.
- Tracy stated that we need to invite new Year 7 parents
- Clare discussed that parents need a mechanism to contact the forum – WA stated that an email address would be created and members agreed that they would be happy to answer queries.
- Clare agreed to produce something for the Callington Voice.
- Members agreed to meet termly. The next meeting will be in January following virtual parents evenings.

College Communication

- Tracy gave feedback that lockdown communication was in line with other schools for the first lock down and expressed that other schools

were more organized in the first lock down and prepared better structure for learning with more virtual lessons.

- Principal updates were good and regular during the first lock down
- Lesson structure and communication was much better in the new lock down period. It would be useful to share zoom lessons timetables in advance.
- WA shared that surveys from students and parents demonstrated that feedback from tutors and teachers was poor in the first lockdown and too many worksheets and the College had strived to improve this. The investment in IT infrastructure meant that more teachers were able to deliver zoom lessons.
- Clare stated how students learnt to be more independent and this was a benefit.
- All parties concurred that feedback on work was vital.
- Tracy asked if a virtual parents evening was planned – WA confirmed that yes, these are in place.

Parent -Carer Day

- WA shared idea of this day, which would involve a 5-10 minute zoom meeting with the tutor to discuss concerns with a focus on pastoral needs.
- Clare asked about individual subject reports and WA confirmed that subject detail is shared via parents evenings
- There was discussion of previous subject progress days and how these had looked. Tracy was cautious about whether this day would have value.
- Mr Aird shared the Yr 11 survey that had occurred that day and gave feedback on how psychologically concerned they were. Mr Aird stated its benefit in understanding children well.
- Mark discussed the importance of 'expectation' – what would happen with the information shared and in addition, approx. 30% of parents/carers can't access these events; How do we reach them? Is this supporting parents to support students? We have to be very clear of our objectives.
- There was consideration of how technology would be difficult for some and there needed to be other options available.
- Paula expressed misgivings due to experience of previous 'target days' which generated targets which weren't followed up and that student confidences could be broken and in addition, how many students would complete work at home.
- WA confirmed that if we ran an event, it would be a one off only due to the events this year.
- BA confirmed that we need a mechanism to reach the disaffected families and reaffirmed the importance of a pastoral conversation.
- WA stated that she and BA would produce a manifesto that would be shared for further consultation.

Parent-Teacher-Association

- BA shared drive to create a PTA that would drive sense of community and support fund raising.
- BA shared how this would support our community, bring in prospective families and support local need.
- BA will send out a survey and create a steering group to drive intent and structure.

- BA stated that it would need to run in addition to Parent Forum.
- The group were positive in response and expressed that it was a good idea.
- Paula shared her previous experience of how rewarding these groups can be and what they can generate.
- Clare stated how this could bring companies, the College and the local community together.
- All were unanimous that this was a good idea.

Clare invited AOB matters and none were put forward.

Clare thanked the group members for their attendance and Clare was thanked for chairing the meeting.