

## Minutes of Parent Forum Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

1. *Raised by Dan McCaffrey* – To discuss the current structure of streaming of students across all subjects.

All setting in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) at the start of September 2021 was changed for this year only. Previously, maths and English were in separate timetable blocks enabling a child to be in set 1 in English, set 2 in maths etc as these skills are quite distinct. However, on our return from COVID lock down, I wanted to reduce the potential number of contact points. This meant having one block which was set against maths – whatever their set in maths, they would be in the equivalent group for English. This has reduced the number of students needing to isolate at times but has additionally inhibited progress in English or maths in some cases. From September, they will be blocked separately again, allowing for children to move sets independently of their set in either maths or English. The College apologised that this had not been communicated effectively at the start of the year and this had inadvertently led to some students feeling dispirited with regards to set movement.

A question was asked about the new streaming model for new year 10s. The College explained that its core purpose was to ensure that children needing a bespoke package of support would be in a position to gain this. The College also discussed how the SENDco had met with all SEN children and their families on this pathway this year, to ensure the right choices were made.

An additional point was raised about the requirement to study a language if you are in the top stream (in year 10 Sep 2021). It was acknowledged that this would have benefited from being communicated earlier on, prior to the options process commencing. The College said it would endeavour to share this information earlier from this point on.

2. *Raised by Mark Rundle* – Feedback given to Mark from parent regarding the letter sent from Mr Hubert on 23.04.21.

A parent had raised that this particular letter was a little blunt and maybe not considerate of the emotional needs of students.

The College explained that the need to reinstate uniform was primarily to reinforce and re-establish a positive culture. Mrs Ainsworth explained that this had started to slip and that the re-establishment of uniform had already made demonstrable impact.

Mr McCaffrey asked about rewards and whether there was sufficient opportunity to reward students for their positive behaviours. Mrs Ainsworth explained that positive rewards outweighed negative points and that there were a number of means in which students could be rewarded. She explained that Magic Moments were there to celebrate the everyday 'good' that children do and that staff had opportunity to

complete these each Thursday morning. Mrs Ainsworth will encourage staff to complete these.

3. *Raised by Clare Law* – A discussion on what thoughts are of bringing forward GCSE choices from Year 9 to Year 8.

The rationale for the extended Key Stage 3 was shared – It affords students the opportunity to fully appreciate the arts subjects, encouraging their uptake and enables students to make choices in a fully informed way. This prevents ‘option shuffling’ and ensures students start their courses successfully.

4. *Raised by Tracy Carmichael* – Reporting and feedback for Year 10 students.

Mrs Ainsworth shared that data would be shared prior to a parent evening that is scheduled for June. It was acknowledged that it was difficult for parents to consider how to support their Year 10 students, given the lack in data. However, it was unanimously agreed that the virtual parent evening was much better.

5. *Raised by Mark Rundle* – Is the forum representative enough of the year groups and how can we develop it further. A plan for the forum to make parents more aware of our existence and therefore better able to bring forward topics they would like to discuss.

After a discussion on the best mechanisms to support this, it was decided that a ‘parent area’ should be fully accessible on the website and we can place information about the forum here as well as creating a form that will enable parents to pose questions in advance, whether they want to be parent forum members or not.

#### AOB:

- Holidays and the calendar: Can we produce our holidays calendar earlier?  
The College agreed to review this and publish earlier if possible
- Use of phones in lessons: This was a comment about a particular lesson where phones have been used inappropriately  
Mrs Ainsworth will follow this up.
- Homework and Revision: What is the position on these?  
A homework setting timetable was shared with staff today by Mr Lane, who has responsibility for home learning. We adopted a ‘light touch’ approach on our return but hope to now reinvigorate. After the 17<sup>th</sup> May, with all being well, an extensive extra curricular program will commence.
- Parents Evening: Some appointments missed by staff  
The College explained how some staff struggled to get home in time and missed their first appointments, because of this, the Year 10 PCE has moved to a 4:15pm start. Additionally, the appointment time will be slightly extended.