

Parents Voice Notes from the Meeting held on Thursday 23rd March 2023

Please note, this is a brief summary of discussions with actions rather than detailed minutes of the meeting.

ACTIONS taken from the previous meeting were discussed.

1. Presentation from the Deputy Head, Mr Sinfield on the new Dynamic Progress Reporting System

This is the new assessment system which the school will be using from next year.

Parent questions/comments (not all questions were noted)

- Will this replace Satchel One?
 - Yes it will eventually, because it will link all of our assessments and resources together
- Will it have an app?
 - Currently not unfortunately. It is a web based system but does not have an app
- Will we teach students how to use it properly?
 - Yes, we will have sessions for students.
- Will staff use this consistently for feedback as currently Departments do it differently?
 - Staff should be consistent now, if they are not parents need to let the school know so that we can challenge them to do so.
- Students can move up in lessons, can they also move down?
 - Yes, but it will be done sensitively.
- If teachers are moving students up and down in lessons, who is teaching?
 - We want students to do more work than teachers and too often teachers stand at the front and talk at students which means they can be passive. While teachers are live marking in lessons they will note improvements and move student's levels in line with objectives appropriately.

Further presentations will be put in place for parents in the new school year once the system has been implemented.

2. Options - Parents raised the concern there are quite limited opportunities to select subjects.

Response from the Headteacher/Deputy Head:

The rationale behind the Options process at Year 8 and Year 9 was explained in more detail. The school try to offer as many options as possible and don't enforce the Ebacc.

Parents discussed wanting an Information Evening to discuss options

Action: The Senior Team to discuss this for next year.

3. Notifications of Tests and Assessments

Parents identified that science was an issue particularly.

Response from the Headteacher:

There had recently been a review of science by the Senior Team and assessment had been raised as an area to improve. Steps should now be in place to improve this within science particularly; this has been seen in practice through learning walks and talking to students.

4. Concerns over Supply Teachers.

Parents raised Computer Science as an issue as the supply teachers can't log on and this has caused lost lesson time.

Response from the Headteacher:

We had a full time Computing Teacher in the Autumn Term who contacted the school over Christmas and said he wasn't coming back. We have now managed to appoint a permanent teacher in his place, although it took some time. This therefore should no longer be an issue.

In terms of supply, there are huge teacher shortages nationally, particularly in some subjects such as physics and it is getting harder and harder to recruit. We will not make permanent appointments when staff are not up to our standards but it does mean at times, we have to have long term supply until we are able to appoint.

5. Concern that logs have increased significantly

Parents advised that students have been told to get a house point for getting off uniform report – so students are trying to stay on report to get the house points.

Action: Headteacher to follow this up with staff and the Year 8 Tutors.

6. Sixth Form Uniform

Parents raised concerns about the Sixth Form Uniform.

Action: Headteacher to speak to the Sixth Form Team about expectations being re-established with regular follow up and monitoring.

7.If a student is off ill how do they catch up with the work

Response from the Headteacher:

Teachers are not required to add lessons to Teams; as we did before lockdown if a student is absent they need to take responsibility to catch up, borrowing their friends work. However, we are trying to put in place a system where all lessons are in a specific area that students can access on MS Teams in the future.

8. In primary school you can pay for school trips by child care vouchers – why can't we do that?

Action: The Headteacher to make enquires regarding this.

9. The current Year 9s have missed out on Graduation and lots of other things – can they have something extra?

Response from the Headteacher:

We try to run as many trips and activities as possible but these are all done on a voluntary basis by staff and also cause others to miss their teachers in their lessons. We have the end of year trip for Year 9s this year but we are limited in what we can provide in terms of 'catch up' for this year group.

AOB

- Year 11 Year Book – parents are really disappointed this didn't happen.

Response from the Headteacher:

The school did try but very few students were interested and there was far more interest in the hoodies.

- Revision booklet/guide was really useful which came out at Christmas, can we have them earlier?

ACTION: The Headteacher to make sure this is sent earlier to parents/students.

- Concerns about homework still being set during the PPE's.

ACTION: The Headteacher to raise this again with staff.

- Trips/Parents Evenings – can we send a reminder to parents on the day/day before as well just to remind parents.

Response from the Headteacher:

A discussion took place with the parents and it was noted that parents did need to set their own reminders following the initial email as the school only has so much capacity.