



PARENTS' COMMITTEE
Monday 20 January 2020 at 6.00pm
Conference Room

MINUTES

Present:

Emma Bennett	Claire Reynolds	Helen Newey	Simon Carroll
Jaime Beard	Debbie Jones	Stephanie Hignell	Richard Hutton
Emma Gobourn	Lisa Watson	Rebecca Evans	Steve Dixon
Caroline Hawkins	Leona Bateman	Shahidun Begum	Nick Grundy
Karen Astbury	Heather Pitt	Andrew Chaney	Karen Otton
Nikki Jagdev	Charlie Wilson	Lynsey Boulton	

Apologies

Apologies were received from Rebecca Price, Katie Wilcox and Shelley Parkes.

Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Data

NGY is in attendance this evening to discuss data and GO 4 Schools as previously requested.

Second Hand Uniform

The newly formed 'Friends of Dormston Community' have already expressed an interest to assist with the sale of second hand uniform.

Head Teacher Update

There is a really strong work ethic evident in the current Year 11. Predicted grades are very positive and this may be one of, if not the most impressive set of results we have achieved as a school. This will be celebrated.

Our Published Admission Number is 224 in Year 7. We had 301 first choice applications and 230 second choice applications. Overall, we had 600 applications and we are the most subscribed school in Dudley which keeps our budget healthy.

Lots of schools closed recently due to Norovirus. Our attendance was 96.5% - 97% daily which is above national average. It did however drop to 89% during these 2 weeks. The school was deep cleaned and we were very proactive at managing the situation to avoid closure.

HNY asked what will happen to schools whose attendance was affected by closure?

SDN stated the schools will have to be advised by Dudley as to where they stand under these circumstances.

GO 4 Schools has really moved us forward as a school and it has helped staff engage with data better.

We are well staffed at the moment with 2 new science teachers (Mr McElligott and Mrs Checkley). This means we are overstaffed by 1 in Science which helps build capacity.

Mr Rock has joined us as our KS4 Maths Co-ordinator. We also have a student teacher in Maths. We are now overstaffed in both Maths and English.

Mrs Pendrigh, Head of Geography returned to Manchester and Mr Perry has replaced her in January 2020 who is an experienced teacher.

We have also started Peer to Peer Review in School.

Adam Boddison, who is a nationally recognised SEN Advisor came into school last week. He spoke to parents, students and gave us a report of our strengths and weaknesses in this area.

We are trying to make House Points display on GO 4 Schools. Form Tutors do have ways of accessing this. We have launched the Core Value Stripes; Effort and Knowledge Stripes are based on academic data. These will be awarded once every half term and students are selected by their HoH.

Extra-curricular provision is going well with 40% of students taking part in one or more extra-curricular activity. Our aim was to get 50% of students taking up some form of extra-curricular provision. Some students however just physically can't after school so we are trying to encourage them to take part on a lunchtime.

We have set up a PTA called 'Friends of Dormston Community' as we are keen to engage and work with our parents more.

We have started to update and improve the website.

All Knowledge Organisers will be on the website very shortly.

In terms of Charity we want students to remember why we are supporting charity. This year we will be supporting West Midlands Air Ambulance. Last year we raised £7k.

We are now an accredited Stonewall School (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender). This is something that Student Council had asked for and we are keen for students to be open minded and accepting of others.

Anti-bullying ambassadors have been developed again and a national poster competition has been entered.

Data/GO 4 Schools – Nick Grundy

NGY gave a demonstration on Aspire/Fisher Family Trust. This looks at reading and maths scores and creates Fisher50 the top 50% nationally. We target set at Fisher20 which looks at the top 20% nationally which gives grades in different subjects. Fisher generates an end of Year 11 target grade.

We use to operate a linear model from Year 7 – 11 and we set every subject like this but lots of students don't learn in this way and it can depend on what subject they are doing. Heads of Department have now created models to match their subject flight path. This is not set in stone and is a working document and will improve as we get better at 1 – 9 system which is still relatively new.

KS2 grades can also be increased if we think they are not accurate.

3 times per year we ask staff; where are students now; where will they be at end of the year and compare to their end of year target.

GO 4 Schools shows grades at a glance.

There is nothing in the positive behaviour scores at the moment. Still working on how we are going to record this on GO 4 Schools.

We really want parents to be looking at homework.

Behaviour section only contains basic details.

Parents can view report for data and also see Form Tutor, Head of House and Leadership Team comments.

Getting students to buy into it and getting parents to look as well is very important. Strategy Leaders are also monitoring this data.

Teachers can view students in their classes and it clearly identifies students who are not achieving as well as they can. We are getting better staff and student buy-in in terms of our data and hope we are getting better parent buy-in as well.

This has also helped us have a clear picture of where each student is when Leadership Team are writing reports.

These documents are always changing. Flight paths are also changing as we are tweaking things.

HNY queried why some Year 8 targets are showing as red?

NGY stated that this may be to do with taking exams in RE in Year 10 and also that this is the first attempt at the flight paths.

KAY felt that her son's RE target was way off.

Some flight paths data catch won't show any progress for certain data drops.

Teachers use a holistic approach for intervention. You will see grades as they are being put in for major assessments.

CHS raised the issue that a mobile phone gives different data to the laptop and you can't find effort scores through the app?

Year 10 parents evening not till June so you have data but don't get to speak to anybody about it. NGY stated that we time it near the end to give the best possible feedback in terms of mocks.

After each data drop staff have to complete data intervention sheets for students who are showing as red.

Strategy Leaders will also identify students who are starting to fall behind.

Art homework X pop set on GO 4 Schools but not on Homework timetable?

ACTION: SCL to look into this.

Seating plans also identifies Pupil Premium/SEND etc.

Parents Items

House Points & Aspiration System – Caroline Hawkins

Students do not know how many House Points they have. My son has asked but still doesn't know. He got a Core Values Stripe which is great but didn't know why or where to stitch it.

SDN stated that students should have been told their House Points so this will be looked in to. Students should have been told in assembly when their stripe was presented to them why they had got it and where to stitch it. This will also be looked in to.

Ingestre Hall Residential Trip 2020 – Helen Newey

Will Ingestre Hall being going ahead this year? It is still on the website calendar.

SDN informed that this is unlikely to be going ahead unfortunately. Staffing is really difficult and we need 4 members of staff to attend and we can't do it during activities week. It is also extremely expensive but as a teacher of the Arts I appreciate it is a valuable experience. 2 staff members have young families now which makes it difficult to expect them to be away from home for a week. We are looking at alternative providers for a day event.

LBN informed that they had also had to drop Ingestre Hall at her school for similar reasons.

ACTION: LBN to share alternative provider they had found with SDN.

Target Setting Approach including any devised flight paths – Leona Bateman

NGY confirmed that we are reviewing targets constantly. LMN stated that all other issues covered in previous agenda item.

Go4Schools

- Review of Parental Experience so far - Emma Gobourn
Discussed in item above.

- When is data uploaded – Claire Reynolds
Discussed in item above.
- Section for House Points to get their next tie – Claire Reynolds
Discussed in item above.
- Messages/Hard Copy Letters not being passed on quickly or at all – Claire Reynolds
My daughter had ordered some books and several messages were sent to her which she never got. Some hard copy letters are not getting passed on. SDN stated that we will keep reminding staff to ensure they pass messages/letters on.
- Knowledge Organisers for all Years on Website - Emma Gobourn
All Knowledge Organisers should be on the website shortly. Year 9 Science has no Knowledge Organiser. **ACTION: SCL to chase.**

These must be distributed. Students are saying that they are being tested on work that has not been covered. Students are using and referring to their Knowledge Organisers.

Any Other Business

Behaviour – How is it going?

Some students feel that bad behaviour was being rewarded for students just being good.

Some students don't know what to do in order to get their next tie.

A science experiment was not allowed due to poor behaviour!

SDN stated that students needed to get 300 points for a Bronze Tie, 600 points for a Silver Tie and 900 points for a Gold Tie. They achieve points by 100% attendance, 1 - 2 Effort Scores and attending extra-curricular. Reward ties are presented twice a year.

There is no tangible way of seeing what they are achieving regarding house points and how they accrue these at the moment.

ACTION: SDN will speak to Mrs Elliott about this.

Senior Leadership Team walk through and the vast majority of classes and Behaviour is good.

CHS asked if the school did Peer Assessing.

SDN confirmed that we did do this – sometimes using video. Head of Departments do Drop-Ins and Walk-ins. SLT drop in lessons every day. New staff are shocked when SLT are in their lessons so much but feel this is supportive and helpful.

RHN felt that the minute LT walk out the door the behaviour changes.

Some staff are not as good at behaviour management as others but we try to pick this up.

SDN wished to thank our Year 11 parents for whom this would be their last Parents Committee meeting for all their support over the years and presented them with some chocolates.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Monday 18 May 2020 at 6.00pm.