



PARENTS' COMMITTEE
Monday 23 September 2019 at 6.00pm
Conference Room

MINUTES

Present:

Shahidun Begum	Emma Bennett	Claire Reynolds	Helen Newey
Jaime Beard	Debbie Jones	Stephanie Hignell	Richard Hutton
Rebecca Price	Emma Gobourn	Lisa Watson.	Rebecca Evans
Shelley Parkes	Caroline Hawkins	Leona Bateman	Shahidun Begum
Heather Pitt	Karen Astbury	Natasha Gwinnett	

Apologies

Apologies were received from Lynsey Bolton, Alison Checketts, Tracy Dunleavy, Nikki Jagdev, Helen Berry.

Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

SDN thanked Parents' Committee for their on-going support. Some of the ideas that Parents' Committee have raised previously have gone on to be implemented and have been really useful in improving school procedures.

Under 'Knowledge Organisers' where it says a similar school to Dormston has seen a +0.4 increase, it should say the school has achieved a +0.4 Progress 8 score (i.e. students gaining nearly half a grade higher than expected for each subject on average).

KS3 Exam Timetable

SDN stated that we are going to try and plan this carefully and will try to spread these out but it is very difficult. We will however look at this again. KAY suggested it be spread out over 1 whole week rather than 2 ½ days. SDN informed that Year 9 are only taking exams in their Option subjects.

GO 4 Schools

Staff are now taking sessional registers and are practicing setting homework on GO 4 Schools. Once we have all parents' email addresses we will send out login details to parents. We can do seating plans on GO 4 Schools which automatically picks up all student information. The first module to be released to parents will be 'Homework'.

Helen Newey asked if left and right handedness could be taken into consideration with seating plans.

SDN informed that Reports will now be released electronically.

Safeguarding

We now have electronic automation and electronic visitor sign-in which is an improvement in terms of safeguarding.

Lockers

Student Council and staff are trying to find a place for lockers but the reality is, if a child is in 'F Block' for instance, they are not going to walk a long way to get to their locker. KAY felt that often students don't use them so it could be a waste of time and money.

Rewards Stripes

SDN informed that Rewards Stripes have now been launched and will be awarded every half term. The school also now has the new tagline of 'Knowledge is Strength' which was created via School Council.

We are launching a PTA which is supporting the development of a sense of community and also fundraising for school.

GCSE Envelopes

GCSE Results were put in envelopes as requested by Parents' Committee.

University Visits

Staff now have to complete a form if they want to put on a trip/visit which means it can be monitored more carefully so that it does not clash or adversely affect learning.

SDN stated that After School Revision has to come before School Production Rehearsals.

Head Teacher Update

There has been a really good start to the year and there has been a really nice vibe around school.

Year 7 have got off to a good start. Year 11 have a really good attitude and it is the best LT we have ever had. They are taking their responsibility very seriously. Year 11 are a great example to the rest of the school. We have taken a firm line with discipline from the off-set.

Kristian Thomas, Olympic Gymnast came in to school today and talked about how hard he had to work. We also have a Year 7 Fresher's Fair and Oxbridge day coming up. Classes have settled well as a whole.

Extra-Curricular Activities will be updated on the website shortly and are advertised on the Weekly PowerPoint which students see.

Exam Results

Exam results took a small dip. Girls did well and were positive but boys didn't do as well. Pupil Premium students were also an issue and the gap is still too wide. What we don't want to do though is create all boy trendy lessons at the expense of the girls.

Our School Development Plan is targeting boys and Pupil Premium. Some re-marks will be undertaken. Some grade boundaries have moved by 11 marks from last year. We have asked for approximately 10 students to be dis-applied as they didn't attend.

We will publish our data but are just waiting for a table checking exercise to be completed.

Data for current Year 11 is looking positive. Summer exams were good. The current Year 11 is one of the best year groups we have had.

We have been monitoring conversations Year 11 are having. They are really aware, focussed and driven. Ethos in this year group is bedding in and increased Careers advice is given them a good focus.

There was nothing in the paper about Dormston's results? If we are going to build up community confidence we need to be in the paper more. There must always be something good that can be celebrated.

SDN noted this point.

Building Improvements

This year we have less surplus than ever. We only had £35k to spend this year on building improvements which is a massive reduction from previous years. We have had to spend a large proportion of the money on new water pipes and new windows in C Block. We have also externally funded an outdoor gym. We have had automated gates and a visitor sign-in system installed. Sometimes it is just the little things that make a difference so we have painted corridors and improved Science displays.

Staffing

There is a massive shortage of Maths and Science teachers nationally. We have advertised twice for a Science teacher and have had to approach an agency to head hunt for us20. Staffing issues have now settled.

- Miss Jacques is Acting Head of Maths;
- Miss Spittle is Acting Head of Science;
- Mr Goldie has been appointed as Head of Art and is doing some great work in the Art Department. He recently did a lesson via a video tutorial he did in advance which was really interesting.

Extra-Curricular and School Productions are both up and running. Chess Club, Peaky Blinders Club have also started.

We have just elected our new Student Council. We have given Student Council £5k to choose how they spend. They have purchased benches, bike racks and new bins.

We are also forming the following School Council Sub Committees:

- Teaching & Learning;
- Staying Safe;
- Finance.

We have trained eight Year 11 Anti-bullying Ambassadors who will spread the anti-bullying message. They have already been amazing!

Our Behaviour System has switched to 'Prepared for Success'. The Refocus Room has been set up and is designed to take up to 29 students. We had 30 students in the first day which then rapidly reduced when they realised what the experience entailed. Students have to work in complete silence under exam conditions. They also take break times in silence and have lunch 20 minutes before other students. They also have to then do a 1 hour detention after school and have a 'Moving Forward' chat with the teacher who referred them. We call parents immediately but every child referred will do 5 periods in Refocus.

KAY thought that the chat with the teacher is a really good idea.

SDN informed that by the Friday of the first week back there were 7 students in Refocus.

If a student goes to Refocus 3 times then they go on a Behaviour Plan and have their lunch taken away from them for 3 days. We work with these students on their social skills so they don't keep making the same mistakes. If all else fails, we move to permanent exclusion.

SDN stated that it is important that we get staff really consistent with the procedure. All new staff under-go induction where this is covered.

KAY was concerned that some teachers may fear it is a judgement of their poor classroom management. SDN stated that staff feel it is helping but we still have some work to do. It tends to peak on a Monday and straight after the summer break.

LBN asked if GO 4 Schools will give access to behaviour? SDN confirmed it would and would include referrals and reasons. Eventually House Points will also be included. Form Tutors should know how many House Points students have. **ACTION: SDN to make sure that Form Tutors are doing this.**

Homework – Natasha Gwinnett

NGW informed that as a school we realised Homework wasn't being set as it should be. It needed to be set to a timetable and students and parents needed to know this. We need to check the quality and purpose and will do this through monitoring.

Please see hand-out for full information.

We are keeping an eye on this so please let us know how you think this is going.

HNY informed that her daughter had not received her homework timetable till today. She has to plan as she has lots of after school activities. Can we not delay getting the homework timetable out as it is not clear at the moment when GO 4 Schools will be live?

NGW stated that we needed to let the homework timetables run through a fortnight first. This has now been completed so timetables can now be released. NGW stated that we will put this on the website and also email it out ASAP.

KAY stated that some homework actually takes longer than the time allocated for it.

Parents Items

Exam Week – Jamie Beard

Already discussed.

Timings of Lunchtimes – (on behalf of Mrs Sian)

Mrs Sian had requested that timings of lunch-times be discussed. SDN confirmed that lunchtimes would need to remain the same at the moment but this would be reviewed and monitored.

Lockers – (on behalf of Mrs Sian)

The ability and value of having Lockers on-site is on-going, as discussed above.

New Behaviour System - Richard Hutton

Picked up in Head Teacher's Update.

Detentions Issued due to unforeseen Traffic Delays - Rebecca Price

Would detentions be issued due to unforeseen traffic delays?

SDN stated that we have to hold fast with the rules. If however we have 50 students all turn up with the same reason we will make allowances.

End of Year Exam Results - Emma Gobourn

There was a big build up for the End of Year Exams but parents were not actually told results. Students tell you information in dribs and drabs. Sometimes the level didn't tally with the grade.

SDN stated that it should be easy to do this with GO 4 Schools and we will be able to release information on mass, as a current grade.

Target grades are just going on to GO 4 Schools. We use Fisher 20 to set our targets. Students don't make linear progress and flight paths are not the same for every subject.

Question was raised as to why can't exam paper go home? **ACTION: SDN to look into this.**

EBN wished it noted that there is also lots of things she is happy about in terms of school.

Information Shared with Parents / Trip Information - Emma Gobourn

Sometimes trip information is not detailed enough. What they need to take with them, 24 hour phone number etc. KON informed that we have just re-issued staff with a revised template letter which should pick a lot of this information up.

Data - Emma Gobourn

Data sometimes doesn't appear to make sense and can look like there is a decline. At the start of the year targets have to be aspirational but targets were lower than my child achieved in Year 7.

SDN stated that as we moved to Fisher 20 this may have caused this to happen.

KAY felt it was difficult to judge + - = unless sitting whole GCSE exams anyway.

Lots of parents don't understand data.

SDN agreed that we need to simplify it. SDN informed that we had asked for primary schools to supply last full English and Maths books. Year 7 undertook a Maths and English Test. Some Year 7s don't do MFL.

Profile of Student Council - Karen Astbury

Can we have more information on the website about Student Council?

ACTION: SDN to get this uploaded.

Sale of Second Hand Uniform - Karen Astbury

Is Sale of Second Hand Uniform something the school would consider adopting? Jumpers start at £21. Could we maybe have a day in July where prospective parents can come in and buy it?

SDN felt that this was a good idea and he would pass this to the PTA

Accessing Homework - Karen Astbury

As discussed.

Any Other Business

Uniform

Pictures on poster still have old logo on and Bilston Street are still selling old stock. SDN said that this is ok as we are allowing this to roll through

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Monday 20 February 2020 at 6.00pm.