



## PARENT FORUM

28th JUNE 2023

Present:

Sean Maher, Ailish Southall, Collette Wong Feng Yee, Matthew Seward, John Trend, Christopher Hart, Giles Tipler, Orla Creegan, Yolande Kurlatov, Tony Lorenschitz

Apologies:

Emma Demblon, Renata Vingiliene, Karen Fox, Eoin O'Connell, Hugh / Amanda Treacy, Amy Lubarda

### **Minutes of the Parent Forum Meeting held on 28th March, 2023**

#### **Action Points and Matters Arising**

Strategic priorities:

We have had to put up our prices for food a little bit.

Due to various reasons, including finances, we are going to park our involvement in the Multi Academy Trust but we will still work with in soft collaboration with the other schools for now.

Exam boards raising their fees, food costs increasing and unfunded pay raises has stretched us this year. So far, to help, we have managed to use up our financial reserves, a couple of staff have taken voluntary redundancy and where some staff have left we have tried to make timetables work without replacing them. Next year we may need to make savings of about £200000. Currently we generate about £240000 income from various other activities in school. At the moment we don't ask sixth form students to contribute to the school fund but we are thinking of changing this. We also have concerns for our teachers and the increase on interest rates on mortgages.

Will continue our work on inclusion and diversity.

Next year we plan to have live parents evening but will use a booking system to make appointments.

#### **To confirm Membership of the Parent Forum for 2023/2024**

Some parents have left due to their children moving on. Please let Mrs Fowler know if you wish to continue your membership or not.

**Feedback from the introduction of MyChildAtSchool (Parents) and Bromcom (students) •**

The parents like the fact it is all in one place, attendance, finances, personal details, email and behaviour. It is good on phones and straight forward to set it up. The parents loved the instructional videos but wondered if Mr Henderson ever sleeps?

They mentioned editing their own personal details was not so easy. However, they understood that this may be by design due to safeguarding concerns. They will log any issues with IT for help and get back to SM afterwards.

The website access good. They said they will spend more time practicing on the app. The parent's version was not always totally in line with the student's one. When a student marks HW as complete, it doesn't always show it is complete on the parent's one. Also it doesn't remind the students about HW due in. They felt it was not as good for HW. Also it doesn't say the subject the HW has been set for? Seemingly you have to click through a number of things to get the details. They wondered if there was an iPad version on the app? They said there was more information on the web-version than on the app. It doesn't show how long the HW should take and what date is it due. They asked could it be designed so they could forward emails etc information on to a printer? The graphics are very good and there is a good level of detail from the teachers about good and bad comments.

#### **Pupil progress and outcomes SM**

These are very good.

#### **Strike Action for Schools**

There are to be two more strike days next week. Although we support the reason for the strikes we are concerned these are not the best idea for the students. Year 6 induction days will continue but will make decision on Monday as to what we do with the rest of the school on those days. The parents said they felt supportive of the strikes but were aware the year group their child was in made a difference to how they felt about their children missing more school.

#### **AOB ALL**

We asked the parents how they felt about a stock message that teachers could send out where parents had worked out a teacher's email. Here staff could reply by requesting they go through the proper channels i.e. the office.

If confidentiality or privacy was required the parents could write in asking for a return phone call from someone. Students could also use the Here to help app or a message on Showbie.

The parents mentioned that some of the students didn't like to message on Showbie as the rest of the class could see their question. We will remind them of other options they can use.

Date of Next Meeting at 7pm – TBA