



#### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARENT FORUM

<b>Meeting Title</b>	Parent Forum
<b>Date</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2025
<b>Attendees</b>	Present Sean Maher, Ailish Southall, (Yr7 –, Makayla Rowan, Kaon Wu), (Yr 9 – Giles Tipler), (Yr 10 – Christopher Hart, Matthew Seward), (Yr 12 - Amanda Treacy)

		Action
1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received from (Yr7 – Jackie Choy, Nevissa D’Souza), (Yr8 – Alessia Behzadi, Helen Gonzalez, Irina Mattson), (Yr 9 – Orla Creegan), (Yr 10 – Emma Demblon), (Yr 11 - Renata Vingiliene), (Yr 12 - Karen Fox, Amy Lubarda, Eoin O’Connell, Hugh Treacy, Tony Lorenschitz, Colette Wong Feng Yee)	

2	<b>Minutes of the Parent Forum Meeting held on 14th November, 2024 Action Points and Matters Arising</b> Agreed.	
3	<b>Celebrating school achievement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSAT Educational Outcomes Award 2024 – Exceptional Student Progress. Richard Challoner School is in the top 10% of schools nationally for student progress in the 2024 end of KS4 exams.</li> <li>• SSAT Educational Outcomes Award 2024 – Exceptional Student Attainment. Richard Challoner School is in the top 10% of nonselective schools nationally for student attainment in the 2024 end of KS4 exams.</li> <li>• Our current attendance rate is the highest across the Kingston Borough.</li> <li>• Richard Challoner School is ranked in the top 50 with 97% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy here. (Sunday Times 5 year analysis of Parent View data (Ofsted).</li> </ul>	



<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Financial challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of our main financial challenges has been that seventy percent of our staff are on the upper pay spine. The pay rises and increase in national insurance contributions were supported by the government by taking the median pay therefore with so many of our staff being on the upper pay spine this meant we were struggling to make the finances balance, which has led to us using our reserves.</li> <li>• The Governors and the Department of Education have said we should get our reserves in to a better position. We have gone through a challenging 8 or 9 weeks to determine how we can make the necessary efficiencies without impacting the curriculum or group sizes. Some tough decisions have had to be made.</li> <li>• Through proposed changes we have not had to change the curriculum structure for the students and staff still have a healthy contact time.</li> <li>• With the proposed changes we now project a surplus budget in the next 2 years of £250000- £300000.</li> <li>• We now have about 65% of staff on the upper pay spine. We have many experienced staff and a very low turnover. Where we have teachers looking for leadership positions, they will be encouraged to look at other schools.</li> <li>• We would like to be in a position to build and develop our buildings such as new changing rooms and more DT space over the next few years.</li> <li>• The school itself and staff are now in a really good place.</li> <li>• Our biggest concern is the shortage of LSAs as we have a large number of children with SEND and will have to think carefully when planning support for these children.</li> <li>• We expect to have 14 children with EHCPs coming into Year 7 next year. This is becoming ever more challenging.</li> <li>• When we need to recruit, we will actively aim for newer teachers. One of the strengths of new teachers is their enthusiasm to learn. It is rewarding to see their growth over 5 to 7 years. Every new teacher is assigned a mentor and can receive support from learning coaches if they would like or need one.</li> <li>• The Leadership responsibilities that will need covered will be shared amongst the Leadership team.</li> <li>• 26 staff are ex-students.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Catholic Education Trust (CET)</b> There are now 5 schools in the trust. We are under a lot of pressure to come in to the trust for September 2025. It will cost us about £150,000-£180,000 per year.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Parent Comments / questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Is the school going to ban smartphones?</b> We do confiscate phones if we see them around school. We feel what we do works well and have no plans to ban phones. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been a lot of negative talk around young men and we think a better balance needs to be found. One parent pointed out that the language surrounding women often encourages empowerment with phrases like "do this, do that," while the language surrounding men tends to be more negative, using phrases like "don't do this." This negativity for</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



	<p>young men is concerning and whilst acknowledging things in the past may not been perfect, we need to find a balance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Could we coordinate trip dates to try and spread-out trips so they are not too close together such as geography and skiing this year and Duke of Edinburgh weekends away and mocks.</li></ul>	
7	<b>AOB</b> None.	
8	<b>Date of meeting – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2025</b>	