



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARENT FORUM

Meeting Title	Parent Forum
Date	17th March 2021
Attendees	Present Staff -Sean Maher, Ailish Southall, Yr 7 - Michele Andrews, Ken Dolan, Renata Vingiliene Yr 8 - Tony Lorenschitz, Collette Wong Feng Yee Yr 9 - Amanda Treacy, John Trend, Eoin O'Connell Yr 10- Amy Lubarda, Yolande Kurlatov Yr 11- Cloda Jenkins, Margaret McCormack, Cathy Moore Yr 12- Karen Fox, Anne O'Brien, Clare Darney Yr 13- Jane Matthew-Bryne, Aileen Almond

		Action
1	Apologies for Absence None	
2	Minutes of the Parent Forum Meeting held on the 5th November, 2020 Action Points and Matters Arising No matters arising from the previous minutes.	
3	Review of the return to school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wearing of masks in class has gone well. We were concerned for the younger students and those on the autistic spectrum, therefore our approach has been not one of enforcement but working together for the common good. We feel the academic gap will close over time and the main focus should be on the mental health and wellbeing of our community. With this in mind, we are looking at presenting an arts and drama performance and an outdoor music concert. Staff had been advised not to over test as we want the children to enjoy being back at school with their friends. COVID safe procedures around school have continued well and the children have been very cooperative. A Safeguarding Audit has taken place recently with a small number of recommendations provided for best practice. A data breach had recently been reported and was responded to in line with the schools Data Protection Policy. The students have become accustomed to the new routines already and seem to be settling back into school life. Attendance is at 98% which is exceptional in a pandemic. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 3000 Lateral Flow Tests have been completed with no positive results to date since our return to school this month. The return to school is concentrating on students enjoying P.E., Art, Music and Drama and settling in prior to catching up with academic work over time. We believe we should not just go back to what we have always done. PTA events and opportunities for parents to catch up will go back on the calendar as soon as allowed. 	
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4.	Finance Update and Development Priorities 2021/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The School Development Plan is under revision due to the pandemic. Priorities have now focused on student wellbeing and mental health. The budget for general maintenance is adequate. The school's financial situation has improved in part due to the school fund, PTA contributions and reclaiming of gift aid. Careful monitoring of the school budget is ongoing and we are hopeful that the budget and fundraising will allow for the school pavilion and refurbishment of two Science laboratories. The Government announced an increase in per pupil funding but has also decreased the National Insurance and Pension contributions for staff. The budget will therefore not see a real increase in funding. 	
5	Pupil Progress and Outcomes Impact on staff to assess GCSE and A Level portfolio. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The head will try and maintain an acceptable work load for teachers given the new assessment process while also trying to ensure there is a Year 7 and 8 camp, activities day and other fun activities for the students. Parents and students will be informed on how we are moderating the exams. The system will be as open and transparent as possible on how we will be arriving at Centre Assessed Grades. We will be addressing any unconscious bias. When teachers are planning the content of the exams they are considering the amount of time the children have for revision and for exam preparation. Catch up Road Map across Key Stages 3, Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form). Matters raised by parents were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you for all the honest communication for the provision for home learning. The parents felt the routine of home learning worked very well and helped the students with the return to school. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The online learning went well and the children enjoyed the interaction in the online lessons. The slower transition with less homework being set was appreciated. The Academic Review Evenings have worked well and consideration is requested for them to continue online post COVID. Action: To consider if to continue virtual Academic Review Evenings post Covid. Concern was raised for increased anxiety around the exams, however they are feeling better now the road map has been circulated. Year 11s and Year 13s now know the expectations around assessments. Consideration to be made to include - Year 11s and Year 13 students on school trips. Action: Discussion on school trips for Year 11 and Year 13 students. The parents said the video explaining the road map back to school was very sensitively done emphasising that catching up with friends was taking priority. There had been anxiety for some children taking their Lateral Flow Test but after the first time they felt fine. School confirmed the children had been very mature and handled the testing incredibly well and without fuss. The parents are thrilled the Duke of Edinburgh Award is going ahead and thank Mr Gregory. Action: - HM to feedback grateful thanks to Mr Gregory for the welcome news that the Duke of Edinburgh Award will still be going ahead. The students are enjoying the chance to play football again. There may be opportunities for gap year work with the local charity Oxygen. 	<p>HM to SLT</p> <p>HM to SLT</p> <p>HM</p>
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>	
	Date of meeting – TBC	