

Parent Forum Minutes

Thursday, October 17th, 2019. South Wing Hall

Welcome and introductions

Jo Davey, Co-Headteacher

Zoe Judge, Co-Headteacher

Kirsten Sullivan, Deputy Head

Mark Chapman, Chair of Governors

Wendy Sloane, Vice Chair of Governors

Headteachers:

Local Crime: HTs aware that issue of street robberies continues. Aware of recent incident involving sixth formers. Stressed the need for all incidents to be reported to school and police. At the very least, stats justify the deployment of police resources in our area. Other school actions: Liaison with local community groups and Haringey councillors; Ongoing coaching and guidance of staff & students. Welcome invitation for MP Catherine West and local Councillor Mark Blake to speak in school.

Drugs awareness: School is intentionally harsh and intolerant of students bringing drugs onto school site. Behaviour policy will continue to be applied robustly. Much possession and usage continues to be offsite however. HT appealed to parents to support the school's position and report issues and concerns. Current issues include the offering of drugs via known keywords. Students also remain a key source of intelligence and continue to report to staff. The school has a liaison police officer with whom we work closely.

Curriculum continues to include awareness and education sessions by both school staff and external agencies.

Teaching Matters:

Maths: Parents have raised issues of absent and changing maths teachers, use of cover teachers and perceived quality of teaching/homework. Varying response/response time via email. HTs and DHT responded:

- School does have some full time maths teacher vacancies. Intensive recruitment efforts continue
- Recruitment of maths teachers is a widespread and national problem
- Not cover teachers but agency staff mostly on longer term contracts
- All agency staff employed are maths specialists and are overseen by maths and senior leadership
- Issues should be raised with KS coordinators and Head of Maths in the first instance.
- After a request, Syllabus and Schemes of work will be updated on the website

Other teaching issues raised:

- Rationale behind appointment of Heads of Sport, Music: HTs explained these are new posts, both leading the department and promoting greater activity in the community and extracurricular activity before/after school
- Sixth form teaching absence: Lessons are not covered, students and staff are expected to catch up the work themselves. Currently not feasible to provide substitute teaching due to degree of specialisation required, and overall resourcing constraints

School meals: Sustainability and Healthy eating: Concerns raised re packaging and Healthy option availability on menus. Packaging is an issue but our provider, Harrisons are responding, in partnership with 6th form sustainability group. Eg. recent initiative to retire bottled water. Wooden cutlery. More to do acknowledged. Food is all conformant with health guidelines including sweet options and all drinks. A parent stressed to inappropriateness of urging teenagers to become vegetarian, which the school assured was never the case.

Public exam results reporting: Concerns raised re timing of GCSE/A level results. Some schools open earlier or transmit by email giving potential advantage in clearing. DHT explained that there was a national embargo to 8am. School currently opens at 9am and maintains its policy that students

should come into school to discuss any clearing strategies first. School will consider opening earlier next year though. GCSE: individual paper marks no longer available which makes it difficult to decide whether remark/appeals are worthwhile. Request to school to reclarify process/timetable for reviews via website/KS4 guidance. School will do this in time for this year's round.

Assessment: Mr Hesse (DHT) gave a presentation on intended change around assessment, reporting of pupil progress and use of IT. Presentation will also be circulated to all parents via school mail. Summary: Move to more rigorous, realistic model of assessment appropriate to Keystage. Clearer reporting also, via existing reports and new systems. Parents will be consulted as part of the change. Rollout over next academic year.

Behaviour: The new behaviour system appears to be working better, with no detentions for minor infractions such as being late and forgetting to bring a pencil case. School is also working to promote more positive rewards to students.

Communication: Parents worried that not all teachers email back in a timely manner. Also commented that the School website could be made more clear, as not everyone is aware they need to scroll down. School will make sure that Week One and Week Two are clearly marked on the website. Some parents asked if Newsletter could feature most important information at the beginning, so no real need to read it all. Others said they love reading all the news in and around the School. Request for better communication concerning the beginning of the academic year, especially for Year 7 students. Request for better information following Year 6 transition, especially for SEND students.

Sport: Question about contact sports being played at school and whether warm-up exercises are always promoted before activities.

AOB: None (not enough time).

Date of next meeting:

TBC in new academic year – look out for an announcement in the Newsletter and on ParentMail.