

# Parent Forum Minutes

**16 October 2017 at 7.30pm, North Wing Hall**

**FORTISMERE SCHOOL**

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Zoe Judge, Acting Co-Headteacher
- Jo Davey, Acting Co-Headteacher
- Mark Chapman Chair of Governors
- Wendy Sloane, Link Governor Communications and SEN
- Pat Dugdale, Link Governor for Safeguarding
- Miriam Clark, new School Fundraiser.

## **2. Follow up from last meeting:**

Reiteration that personal issues to do with individual children should not be brought up at the Forum. Please bring these to governor surgeries or contact the appropriate staff via other avenue/ email.

Reminder that the Senior Leadership Team will have three yearly discussions with parents on timely issues that are brought up by parents. Next one will concentrate on Go4Schools – date and time tbc.

## **3. Fundraising (Miriam Clark)**

Miriam has been involved with the FSA for several years and has recently been appointed as the school's new Fundraiser. One of her priorities will be to revive and expand the alumni association, not only for Fortismere students but also to include alumni of the legacy schools, Tollington Grammar, William Grimshaw Secondary Modern School and Creighton (Fortismere's original name upon the merger of Tollington and William Grimshaw).

Her role will not duplicate that of the FSA but rather complement it. In particular she will focus on securing major donors to raise funds for capital projects. To this end she will be running workshops with staff and groups of students to pinpoint what makes Fortismere special and why donor should give to Fortismere in priority to other schools. Parents who would like to contact Miriam and contribute to the current brainstorming process can email her at [mclark@fortismere.org.uk](mailto:mclark@fortismere.org.uk).

## **4. BFL update (Zoe Judge and Jo Davey)**

Ms Judge and Ms Davey explained the operation of the recent modifications to BFL and their rationale. The changes had been introduced following soundings from staff and students. The number of C3s and C4s was increasing and more students were at risk of fixed terms exclusions having amassed a high number of C4s. This led to a

realisation that BFL was not having the intended effect. The working party concluded that:

- there needed to be greater focus on rewarding positive behaviour (details of implementation are still under review);
- a distinction needed to be made between disorganisation and bad behaviour; the former will now result in a C20 (20 minutes detention on a Tuesday or Thursday after school) and the latter a C40 (40 minutes detention on Monday or Wednesday after school); and
- There should be no learning time wasted. Students would read their books in C20s and either read books or do homework in C40s or C60s rather than sit in silence.
- Cases of serious misbehaviour, or failure to attend a C20 or C40, are now punished by a C60 SLT detention, 60 minutes after school on Friday supervised by members of the Senior Leadership Team. This is intended to be a major deterrent, to raise visibility of SDLT and to give SLT greater insight into why students end up in detention.

Parents were generally positive about the changes but comments included:

- a parent whose daughter felt that that more C20s were given out than the old C3s’
- a parent whose son did not feel punished by a C20 as he enjoyed reading
- parents who had the impression that there was still some inconsistency in application of C20, some teachers giving them out merely because a student did not have a green pen in his/her pencil case or handed in homework late on one occasion, while others did not. Ms Davey and Ms Judge said that this had been brought to their attention and that the position would be clarified with teachers.

## **5. Sixth form admissions – post 16 options**

Why can't all Year 11 students progress to sixth form at Fortismere? Ms Judge replied that it was not really practicable for any school to guarantee a sixth form place for all its year 11s students due to space and facilities constraints. In particular Fortismere was not able to offer the full range of BTEC and other vocational courses offered by some other schools and sixth form colleges and had had to discontinue a Sport BTEC due to insufficient uptake.

She pointed to Haringey's extensive investment in vocational courses at Greig City Academy and Haringey Sixth Form Centre and the excellent reputation of the courses and facilities at Greig City. Ms Davey explained that discussion would need to be had with Haringey which has a borough-wide plan, as any expansion of Fortismere could be to the detriment of other schools such as Greig City in which a lot of investment has been focused.

It was agreed that this topic should be followed up in a later Parent Forum session.

## **6. Lost property, especially PE kits**

Parents were reminded that lost property is collected at South Wing and students should collect it from there. A lot of lost property appears to accumulate in the PE department and that students often take other students' kit home with them, not checking name tags.

## **7. “Badly behaved children on the Broadway” -what jurisdiction does the school have, if any, over kids outside the school, outside school hours?**

Wendy Sloane referred to a parent email complaining about Fortismere children throwing “substances” and to disturbances and loud behaviour outside Boots and Poundland.

Ms Judge said that two members of staff walked up the Broadway as far as Poundland to keep an eye on things. Students will be talked to about conduct outside school but there is little the school can do after about 4.15 pm as the students are clearly outside the school’s jurisdiction before then. Some parents commented that students generally behaved well outside school, including large numbers who gather on the pavement outside Planet Organic.

## **8. Should kids in years 10 and 11 be allowed to leave school premises during lunchbreak?**

Ms Davey and Ms Judge said that this was unlikely to be popular with the local community as the large number of sixth formers going out at lunchtimes was already causing some complaints. However this was kept under consideration and they would be happy to have discussions in SLT, perhaps about allowing this as a reward for good behaviour. This might be an appropriate time to revisit the issue as the school’s catering facilities are very busy.

A parent commented that they had seen students smoking outside school and asked what the school was doing about it. The Co-heads said that smoking was forbidden within a cordon around the school but that beyond that the school could do little other than inform their parents and give students health warnings about the health risks of smoking.

Ms Judge and Ms Davey left at this point of the meeting.

## **9. Headteacher recruitment**

Mark Chapman explained how the recruitment process would be conducted and its timetable. One of the major steps was to consult with all stakeholders and this part of the meeting was the start of the consultation with parents.

Wendy Sloane read out comments submitted my email before the meeting. There was then a wide ranging discussion about the following:

- The purpose, culture and values of the school: what do we value most?
- What does Fortismere do well, what must be preserved and what is ripe for change?
- The professional and personal traits of the successful head
- The priorities for the new headteacher.

Comments from the floor were noted in the draft consultation report which will be made available soon. A questionnaire will be circulated to all parents who will have a further opportunity to make their views known.

## **10. New topics for discussion/AOB?**

None

## **11. Date of next meeting**

6. TBC confirmed, most likely in January.