

Parent Forum Minutes

Monday, February 11th, 7pm, North Wing Hall

Welcome and introductions

Jo Davey, Co-Headteacher

Zoe Judge, Co-Headteacher

Wendy Sloane, Vice Chair of Governors

Headteachers:

1. Implementation/enforcement of mobile phone policy
Phones do not make you safe, it's your behavior around a dangerous situation that does. Many shops in Muswell Hill are "safe spaces" where kids can use the phone, if needed. Be aware if a child is caught with a Smartphone in school they will be confiscated for a week. They are only allowed in the Sixth Form, and there is an intent to have random searches in the near future. The effect of unauthorized photography in particular is dire.
2. Developing a School Drugs Policy
Seeking to strengthen the policy through closer links with schools, consideration around exclusions, enhancing opportunities around drugs education and formalizing links with police liaison officers. Students carrying drugs may be subject to fixed-term exclusion, but there are gray areas. Discussion also about whether police take the problem seriously enough. Drugs education includes bringing in ex-addicts, holding workshops, discussions and assemblies.
3. The role of the FSA
Parental involvement is important – a balance between it and student independence works best. With this in mind, the School would love to see the FSA back on the table. The money provided has been instrumental in helping bring the community in, fostering links with others, having money for the arts, drug education etc. We had a strong FSA in the past – is parental involvement really only for primary school parents? We hope someone will step up and bring this important body back to life, first of all with planning for Fortitude!

Parents:

4. Will PE return to the Sixth Form timetable?
Changes scheduled. There is an intent to bring back regularly scheduled Wednesday afternoon sessions for all. Not compulsory for Sixth Formers.

5. Sports curriculum for Year 7 girls.
Desire expressed to see wider opportunities for all – not just representative teams. The School is also working to take “gender” out of PE lessons.
6. Could Year 8 have special sports clubs just for them?
Sports clubs already exist and are listed on the website, as well as many other extra-curricular activities for all years, and for specific years.
7. Can we allow Y10 & Y11 pupils to go out of school during lunchtime?
No. Firm policy is already set.
8. Supply/cover teachers - change cover into silent reading lessons?
No – some children struggle just to read for the required ten minutes at the beginning of English lessons. And cover teachers are selected according to subject and provide valuable teaching.
9. Substitutions of Science teachers - how is it going?
School acknowledged recent problems and said things are back on track. Staff now appointed with subject specialisms. There are some temporary staff replacements with permanent staff appointments in the works.
10. Why families ask for external tutoring? What is impact of parent intervention?
This is a parent choice, not a school matter. School concerned that they cannot oversee the quality of the tutoring.
11. School intervention in Years 7 and 8 instead of Year 11.
Already leading strategy for School, with Accelerator group and Reading enhancements explained.
12. Informing families in advance of school trips abroad so children can fundraise.
Most are given a good lead time. Will investigate why some trips to same countries differ in price, such as China trips.

AOB

- Climate Change march Feb 15th – School position is that students should not leave school, partly for safety considerations. School to make formal communication.
- Timing and volatility of homework: Like a bus, nothing then three at once. Depends on teaching and learning progress. Homework is given often as a consequence of reaching a point when homework is most appropriate. School does not have a homework timetabling policy.
- **Date of next Forum: Wednesday May 23rd**

Hope to see you there!