Parent Forum Meeting

Minutes from 09/11/2021

Attended: Jane Cooper (JLC) Laura B, Lucy G, Louise T, Kirstie A, Alice C

Apologies: Sarah B, Grace J

Agenda Item	Points Raised
Welcome & Introductions	- Welcome from JLC and thanks for participating in the group - Group agreed that a couple more members would be good, but no more than this. JLC to laisse with YTLs for recommendations. Priority to more 6th Form representation
Start to Year	- Positive start to the year. - Feeling that school is now 'Back to Normal' which is great for both parents and students. It is positive that students are now being able to mix more between the year groups. - Year 10 students are experiencing some anxiety around GCSE's and how serious school has become. Hearing the news about catch up funding has made them worry that they are behind. Parents are not completely confident on how to support. - Suggestion that plans for catch up funding use be shared with parents. - Suggestion of Information/ Expectations Evening at start of Year 10 to help parents understand the GCSE process, grades, exam boards, recommended study guides. Very little in school contact now that parents' evenings are virtual and this would help parents to support their children better.
Communication General	- Communication is generally good and staff are very responsive although most personal communication is instigated by parents rather than teachers. - Written communication is usually about a specific event. - A newsletter would be really useful, particularly if this was broken down into Year Groups to help parents keep track of events and feel more aware of what is going on in school. - Class Charts points are well received but there is inconsistency between teachers. Some tutors give attendance points and some don't which is disheartening for those not receiving the points. - An increase in positive phonecalls/postcards would be great. Most parents have never had either of these.

Website	• The look is good but it does not seem to have all the information on it yet. • Uniform does not mention that students are allowed to wear shorts • Staff list would benefit from some email addresses being supplied. • Curriculum-The parent section only has a 'Vision' section. The student section has some information but materials are not there. CIOs are not there and these are really useful to help parents support with learning/revision. • Information on Exam Boards and Course Texts would be useful for GCSE Years. Recommended text books, Revision Guides and Reading List would be helpful, including ISBNs • Current Vacancies can't be found through the website • Information on Bus Services is missing. • Calendar is not populated. There is very little on it, including no start and end of term dates.
Community, Integrity, Opportunity	• Talked about the vision and meaning behind these words. Looked at how this is being embedded into school life. • Need to ensure that students know what the meaning of these words is • Suggestion of workshops to increase students' understanding • Suggestion that the meaning of the words are only important if it can be seen in students' behaviour
Peer on Peer Abuse	• Discussed increased awareness around this topic and that students are being educated about this • Parents see most issues being around banter that is taken too far. • Advice for parents is not needed as long as students are being educated and informed. • Some discussion around Year 8s going into their toilets to use social media. This is the only toilet in school where this is possible as all others are open plan. Students who are not wanting to get involved are sometimes left alone at lunch.
AOB	• More clubs are needed: Book club and Art club were suggested. Year 9 artists, who have to wait another year for options are missing out on their extra art lessons. • School Reports: Expected Grade Bandings can be very disheartening to report against, particularly in lower years. Students with higher expectations feel like they are not achieving well as they can only meet expected progress. A conversion table for grades to old style letter grades would be useful. A report once a year with personalised comments with how they can improve would be more useful than reports with just numbers. • 6th Form choices for Year 11: Is there an opportunity for students to state what A Levels they would be interested in before the options are set? If there were several students across the schools who all wanted to do Politics is there a school that could run this?

Next Meeting	• We will have another meeting next term and JLC will invite some more post 16 parents to join. JLC will send out new meeting date via Teams.