

# PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

**Date:** Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Venue:** LRC

## MEETING MINUTES

**Present from SGHS:** Mrs. Wade, Mrs. Fisher

**1. Apologies:** Mrs. Plews

**2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:**

- o Home School agreement – it was felt this was a good addition

**3. New website:**

This was positively received in terms of layout and information on there. The 'Parents' section was looked at more closely and these additions were suggested:

- o Cyber-Bullying – stepped actions for parents/students regarding reporting of bullying.
- o To add the school shop list to Parentpay for ease of reference
- o Consider Twitter feed of photos and comments for trips and visits (Enrichment Week)
- o Question – will the VLE be updated in line with the school website? Who will be doing that (Gill Fisher explained the appointment of a graphic & web designer in July.)

**3. Building Update:**

- o The work is progressing well and the roof is about to be put on. There were no complaints at all about noise during exams so the sound audit undertaken prior to the start of exams was effective.
- o Fund-raising continues and will do so into next year. The Wolfson Foundation has donated £40,000 which is a big boost. The sponsor a brick campaign has also been successful. Parents said they had heard the Quiz Night had gone well. Money for furnishing the new build will come from SGHS reserves with the aim of replenishing them during the year.

**4. InTouch:**

Mrs Wade explained the Sims InTouch functionality and the pros and cons versus simply click. The powerpoint will be uploaded onto the website.

- o Main benefit to parents is the ability to have messages sent to an e-mail address and/or a text message without having to log on to a different system. Other benefits include e-mailed reports, timely updates about things like closures, updates on attendance, rewards and behaviour.
- o Contacting teachers directly – this was felt to be one drawback but the benefits outweigh it. Parents would like clarification about response time; protocols in e-mail sending eg. fields/boxes confidentiality?
- o What will the screen look like visually?
- o Phone calls re attendance would be the preferred method of contact.

**5. Behaviour for learning:**

The Students Executive team have been consulted and the feedback is:

- o Students would prefer 'experience' rewards such as tea/free slush drinks/trips etc. rather than possessions.
- o They would also like 'group' recognition e.g. tutor group or house groups.
- o There was some hesitation about certificates in gathering – not wanting to go to the front. Although certificates and praise postcards are valued (especially the postcards being received through the letterbox). This is still very important to the older girls.
- o Work is on-going in terms of rewards and sustainability.
- o Sim tracking is very good – it is very important to value ALL girls and all students should get rewarded at some point.
- o Students are used to a structured system from primary school.
- o Parents will be communicated with by letter next week and the students will be prepared for September.

## **6. Mobile Phones**

An Acceptable User Policy for mobile phones will be introduced. This is as a result of the huge rise in the use of mobiles around school – and recent research about connectivity and how this affects concentration and learning.

- Mobiles will be allowed in school but not to be in use.
- Laptop provision and high specification means mobiles shouldn't be needed for teaching & learning and there are now drawbacks over concentration given smart phones' capabilities and push notifications as well as text/social media messaging.
- There needs to be a procedure when students want to talk to parents eg. Student Services.
- There should be an area zoned for use when needed.
- There will be a gathering led by Mrs. Wade w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> June so all students will be informed of the new policy which will start in September. Parents were supportive of the initiative.

## **7. AOB**

- More use should be made of lockers in terms of storing equipment to avoid too much heavy carrying by students – there was some concern over laptop weight.
- Brief discussion over new laptop scheme for Year 9 and 12. Year 9 will have a gathering led by Mrs. Wade on the new laptop provision. Year 12 can use an existing one, buy into a new 2 year scheme or bring their own device.