

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Date: Tuesday 13th March 2018

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Library

MEETING MINUTES

Present from SGHS: L Greenwood (LG); Mrs J Goulding; Mrs M McMillan

Parents present:

C. Aspin; F Carr ; J. Dixon; C Hands; C Hawley; S Irlam; A. Leach; E Sandoe; V Simmons; C Vereker; E. Wolstenholme

- 1. Welcome:** Mrs Greenwood welcomed the members, and in particular the new members of the group. Members introduced themselves individually.
- 2. Apologies:** C Davison; S Done; D Whitfield
- 3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes approved from 23rd November 2017 and matters addressed.
LG advised she had taken points from the last meeting to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and SLT were particularly interested in holding an SLT surgery/drop-in with refreshments nearby. LG is looking into this.
- 4. Purpose of the Group:** LG presented an outline of the purpose of the group; a forum for parental engagement, whereby parents/carers can work with senior leaders on key aspects/areas of the school. PIP is not a forum for complaints or individual conversations about students.
- 5. County Lines (safeguarding update):** Parents were introduced to 'County Lines' by FM and a film presenting this. County Lines is a method of city gangs exploiting young and vulnerable people in rural communities to sell drugs. North Yorkshire Police have alerted schools of its presence in Skipton. A discussion followed, and FM explained that this was for parental awareness and more will be done to follow up with students and parents. Drugs information for parents was also discussed.
- 6. Teaching & Learning: what our professional development for teachers looks like:** Mrs Goulding (Associate Assistant Headteacher) presented an outline of the teachers' professional learning, with a particular focus on Lesson Study; a Japanese model that encourages teachers to collaborate to solve problems in the classroom or trial new teaching strategies. Teachers work together to research strategies and plan to implement these together, focusing on how a small group of students respond. They observe each other (sometimes using Iris; a video capture reflection tool), reflect and refine, then try the strategy again. There then follows (at the end of the year) a whole staff dissemination session(s) to review/reflect what others can use.
JG then showed some examples of some of the projects that staff groups are working on within lesson study this year.
A parent asked what the timescale is for the lesson study cycle. This is 2½ terms. Even projects that were not overtly 'successful' were considered valid, as they have value in terms of professional learning.
- 7. Student Planners:** Mrs Greenwood explained that regretfully, due to the current funding cuts in education, we will no longer be able to fund student planners, except for Y7 students, next year. Therefore, parents were asked to feedback their thoughts on 3 options:
 1. Parental contribution for planner
 2. Students bringing their own diaries
 3. Online use of calendarParent comments were:
Planners are considered an essential tool and all students benefit from interpreting/recording homework.
Online planner tools such as 'Classcharts' (used at EGS) are excellent. Mrs McMillan explained that these have significant cost implications.
Parents agreed that, given the situation, parents would be happy to contribute, as FM said the cost is between £3-4.
Mrs Vereker, who is also on the Friends of SGHS committee, suggested that maybe the Friends group may be able to help. LG advised that feedback will be taken to SLT for further consideration. A parent commented that consistency of method is important and LG and FM agreed with this.

8. AOB:

- **Parents' Evening teacher appointment lists** – parents have asked that the time lists are displayed on the actual evening. LG and FM advised that SLT are aware of this and it will be done this way at the next parents' evening to facilitate a smoother running.
- **Friends of SGHS** – Mrs Vereker gave out a verbal update of the Friends of SGHS recent/upcoming events and invited the PiP parents to the next meeting.

Actions from the meeting:

- Mrs Greenwood will look into a SLT surgery/drop-in near refreshments at Parent's Evenings.
- Mrs McMillan will investigate the possibility of some parent information sessions on drugs awareness/education.
- Mrs Vereker will approach the Friends group for help with the cost of planners and Mrs Greenwood will take feedback to SLT.