

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Date: Wednesday 29th June 2016
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: LRC

MEETING MINUTES

Present from SGHS: Mrs. Gill Fisher (GF),

Parents present: Susan Nelson, Fiona Carr, Catherine Hawley, Alison Leach, Liz Wolstenholme

1. Apologies: Sally Canny, David Whitfield, Chloe Vereker, Caroline Whitaker

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising: Approved

GF has informed Fiona MacMillan about the request for over-subscription criteria for Enrichment Week and this is being considered. GF has informed James Hoyle about the request for a timeline for trips & visits, especially in regards to payment.

GF has spoken to the Finance Department and we can set up a 'trips misc.' account for parents to pay into in anticipation of trips arising – this will create a balance that can then be allocated against a specific visit that arises in the academic year. On the subject of credit balances at the end of the year, parents felt they would be happy for them to be rolled over unless otherwise requested.

Agenda:

1. Review of Parents in partnership work:

All parents felt that the group was very effective in the consultation process and that it had improved dialogue between school and parents. They commented on a change in culture – of communication and transparency which was very much welcomed. They felt this message was also being spread into the wider community. They felt that they had 'been listened to' and that their perspective was taken into account on matters of school improvement. All parents present want to continue next year.

From a school point of view GF explained how valuable the group had been in the consultation process – that the different perspective often highlighted issues not previously explored, and new ideas were offered and welcomed. GF thanked the parents for their positive approach to group meetings and for giving up their time to be part of it.

Specific matters that have been discussed at the meetings are:

1. Uniform
2. Target-setting & Parental Reports
3. Friend of SGHS launch
4. New build and opening
5. On line parents' evening booking
6. Behaviour for Learning system
7. Feed-back on rewards
8. Trips, visits and enrichment
9. Sims in touch
10. Safeguarding
11. Toot Toot
12. Lunch wave system

On all these matters parents said their perspective had been taken into account – and that they were better able to support the school with any changes.

Next Steps:

Parents discussed the need for a curriculum 'route map' so that parents know ahead of time of any decisions to be made (in regards to options, course choice etc). This will help parents answer questions their daughters have and support them in making the right choices. This is particularly important for post-16 decisions as students may have needed to organise work experience. They felt that communication was good once decision making was upon them but they would like to know in advance – for example, parents would like communication about 6th form, careers, UCAS in year 11; and the year 7 parent would like to know more about options in year 8.

In addition, an explanation of national curriculum changes and implementation timeline would be welcomed, as well as an explanation of the new GCSE grading system.

2. Recruitment to the group:

GF will send out an e-mail to all participants thanking them for their support and asking whether they would like to continue next year. GF will then advertise places available to parents in September. It was felt by all parents that 2/3 per year was enough – that too big a group would hinder the discussion and consultation process.

There was a review of the aims which are still valid. In addition the flyer could outline the work done this year in order to distinguish itself from Friends of SGHS.

Parents present will send GF a quote about the impact/ effectiveness of the group to add to the flyer.

Proposed Dates for 2016-17 (may be subject to change)

12th October 2016

23rd November 2016

1st February 2017

5th April 2017

17th May 2017

5th July 2017

AOB:

Trips & Visits – it would be a good idea to have a group text set up for visits abroad. GF had looked into this and it is possible to set up a ‘user defined group’ on Sims for this purpose and Cindy Haymes will look into additional costings. For normal communication blogs and e-mails were valued; however, for delays or emergencies it was felt that a text message system would be better as parents can access this on the move. This would avoid parents waiting for pick-ups for example when there has been a long delay – this was the example given from the SAGE trip (which was a fantastic experience too). FC commented that the communication on the China trip had been excellent – GF will discuss with James Hoyle whether the protocols used on this trip could be rolled out to all foreign trips.

PE & Sports Facilities: FC asked whether improving sports facilities was a priority on the horizon as it is an important area – to encourage girls to be active. GF explained the CIF bid process and said that it was under constant review as SLT would also like to improve the on-site sports facilities.

GF thank everyone once again for their invaluable contributions and wished families a happy summer holiday.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm