

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Date: Wednesday 1st February 2017

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: LRC

MEETING MINUTES

Present from SGHS: G. Fisher (GF); J Plews (JP)

Parents present:

F. Carr; S. Done; C. Hawley; A. Leach; S. Nelson; C. Vereker; E. Wolstenholme; C. Aspin.

1. Apologies: Mrs Sandoe, Mrs Swales, Mrs Bateman, Mrs Thomas-Smith

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising: N/A

Agenda:

1. Parental communication:

Are there any elements of communication that need improving ?

All parents present felt that communication has improved significantly over the last 2-3 years incl. PiP meetings and Friends of SGHS. Parents felt that they get a very good service from Student Progress, Student Services and Finance – if they ring in staff respond quickly. Also, emails are responded to efficiently by staff. Teachers have sent out revision materials for Y11 and this was well received by parents. They also felt that many teachers and personal tutors are proactive but that this was an area that could perhaps be improved to achieve greater consistency of approach. There was a brief discussion about the need for parental concerns to be handled discreetly by staff, particularly when speaking to girls.

Firefly – parents now have full access to Firefly. Siblings are linked under one account log in. There have been issues with the accuracy of attendance information and this is being addressed.

Friends of SGHS – new dates are not always updated and information is sent out a bit late. The Race Night communication was sent with not enough notice. Could someone speak to the secretary of friends who can work with Dan Fitchie or could they possibly recruit a communications officer?

It would be good to have some parental training around Social Media (in particular sexting) and E-safety. Mrs. McMillan liaises with external services for provision of this type of training and the police are coming in this week to talk to students about internet safety in an age appropriate way. This adds to the PSHE lessons which every year group have timetabled. Parents felt that the school does a lot with students and if we could use Firefly or e-mail more to let them know what key issues are being discussed, they would support at home too.

More face-to-face communication with parents would be appreciated – especially with form tutors. The personal tutor role is very important to students and parents. Parents do like the vertical tutoring we have at SGHS. There was a discussion about the balance between meeting the personal tutor and subject teachers. Parents of older students felt that, in hindsight, meeting the tutor in Years 7 and 8 was the most appropriate, whereas some parents of younger students would like more contact with subject teachers.

2. Response to consultation on expansion:

Full results of the consultation are on the website.

Y7 will be over PAN for one year in September 2017.

The aim is then to expand and there is an application for 'CIF' (Condition Improvement funding) for an extension which the school should hear the outcome about around March/ April time.

The Chalets and the Hollow need to either go or put to a new use. Sports England are also in discussions to improve our sports facilities.

AOB:

Road Safety

We are currently campaigning to make Gargrave Road a 20mph speed zone.
6th Form students cross the road during all times of the day.

There is no banksman for the new homes on Granville Street currently and this is causing issues of safety with lorries pulling in and out, and parking inappropriately. Lorries have been obstructing the road and making it more dangerous than it already is.

There needs to be a minimum of 550 signatures to take the campaign to CDC though local councillors have suggested we will struggle getting support with this issue. However, all parents and students are encouraged to sign the online petition which means that we will be allowed a council hearing about the issue. Julian Smith and the Craven Herald are fully supportive of the campaign. SGHS are working with Water Street primary school to produce banners. We have a 5 week window for the petition to run.

There was further discussion of related issues:

Could the buses pick up/drop off place be moved – maybe the Auction Mart? Coach Street car park is probably not an option.

Some of the buses arrive half an hour before the end of the day and park on the double yellow lines causing blockages in the road. The school will contact the bus company. Also, parents have been fined previously for parking illegally.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm