

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Date: Wednesday, 16th October 2019

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Library

MEETING MINUTES

Present from SGHS: Mrs Greenwood, Miss Hughes

Parents present: C. Aspin, F. Carr, S. Done, K. Evans, C. Hands, C. Hawley, S. Irlam, B. Kumaar, A. Leach, J. McBeath, J. Mitchell, S. Outhwaite, K. Roden, J. Thersby, E. Wolstenholme.

Apologies: T. Sardar, D. Whitfield

1. **Welcome:** LYG welcomed the group, particularly new members. All members of the group introduced themselves. LYG reiterated the purpose of the group: to gain parental feedback on matters of school improvement (not a complaints forum).

2. **Apologies & items for AOB:** T. Sardar, D. Whitfield. No AOB.

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

The minutes were taken as a true record of the meeting in June. LYG commented that all actions were followed up. Also, all faculties have now ensured they have marking and feedback policies, these have been shared with staff & students. Rewards – we are seeking feedback from staff and students on rewards students would like to receive. We also will try to distinguish C2L awards from attainment.

4. **Home-school communication:**

Strengths

Focused emails – concise is good!

Like Parentpay consent – less effort.

Feedback from individual teachers – more of this.

Twitter feeds ✓

Amount of communication good.

Response fantastic when contacted by parents directly.

Areas for Development

Where is the calendar accessed – can this be communicated more clearly?

Firefly access to be communicated to Y12 parents/carers.

New Y12 parent information needs boosting in general.

Promptness of calendar uploading to website.

Facebook/Instagram?

Newsletter could be more focused/video clips sometimes better than simply articles.

Attachments cannot always be seen on some phones when sent from school.

Could parental feedback be collected via a questionnaire at a time other than on parents' evening? Use of a feedback portal, perhaps?

Meet the Tutor – please do not just cancel. If staff are absent, can the meeting be rescheduled?

Email contact from Form Tutor at the start of the year would be helpful to introduce them (Y7/12).

Email list not sent out this year – this is useful. Please can it be sent out ASAP?

[Action – LYG to follow up staff email contact list and new Y12 parent information such as Firefly access.](#)

5. **Mathematics:**

GEH talked about the challenges of building confidence in some girls in maths and the work the maths team are doing to combat this. Parents were asked to complete a questionnaire before the meeting, which was collected in. Parents were then invited to comment on their perceptions of their children's experience of maths. Some of the comments included:

- Setting does not always work, but it can build confidence and some children feel better in class with others of same ability.
- Mistakes are ok and can be celebrated.

- Can more advanced students be pushed more effectively?
- Peer mentoring (we do this already) can we do more of this?
- Could students choose the level of work they do more? This builds confidence.
- Maths celebration day would be good.
- Maths homework online platform does differentiate and is helpful.
- If the basics are incorrect, students can get the whole problem wrong. Principles are important.
- Is there a book students can buy to support? GAH – not specifically, as everything is covered.
- Can we have an inspirational female maths speaker? Could we canvas parents for this?
- A variety of methods to calculate are acceptable.

Action - LYG to pass questionnaire responses to GAH to discuss with MKT for any action required.

6. **Y9 reporting**

LYG outlined the proposed changes to Y9 reporting (which will be rolled out to Y10, Y12 and later Y11 & Y13.) Instead of a norm-referenced ranking system (as last year), following staff consultation we would like to use a 'current prediction'. This will indicate whether students in Y9+ are on track to achieve their target by stating what their teacher expects their grade to be, should they continue to work consistently. All parents present thought this was positive and easy to understand.

7. **AOB** – none.

Meeting closed at 7.18pm.