

Parental Focus Group Minutes



Date of Meeting: **Thursday, 15th November (evening)**
Wednesday, 21 November (morning)

Present: Mrs C Brown, Mrs H King, Mrs L Segal, Miss K Govan, Ms Hale, Mrs S McAdie, Mrs S Whiteley, Mrs S King

Apologies: Ann Corbin, T Hindmarsh, J Towns, R Jones, M O'Hara-Harris, D Purvis

1. **Matters Arising**

- Following request for information in last meeting, all pupils in KS4 study:
Macbeth
AQA Anthology of Poetry - Power and Conflict
Teachers then choose a 19th century and modern text from an exam board selection based on the strengths of their class demonstrated in the first two terms of Year 10. Teachers will inform their Year 10 classes once they have made this decision.
- DC to go through EBIs later in meeting.

2. **Diocesan Inspection**

- Occurred on 13th/14th November.
- Two lead inspectors.
- Thanks to parents who came in to speak to the inspectors.
- Thanks to all the parents who filled in a survey - 775 replies.
- Intensive two days, particularly for the RE department.
- Lots of interviews.
- Seemed really impressed with the pupils - their religious literacy and their pride in the school.
- 10 days until we get the verdict.

3. **Anti-Bullying Week**

- DC described the range of activities that had taken place.
- Assemblies used the theme 'Choose Respect'.
- All agreed that every week is anti-bullying week.
- A Hills in charge of anti-bullying initiatives and the Smile Ambassadors.

4. **Revision Strategies**

Brief discussion on Michele Miller's presentation. DC distributed her slides and notes on her presentation. Really important for parents to be involved in the revision process.

5. **Pupil Progress**

How do you know, as parents, that your child is making progress?

- Targets
- Profile sheets
- Looking in books
- Postcards home
- Sanctions such as detentions for poor homework
- No news is good news
- Test results
- Intervention
- St Richard's encourages pupils to be self-motivated
- The older the pupil, the less likely they are to share their learning
- Reports

One query: some targets go up and down - DC to check.

6. **EduLink Update**

- Still cannot access letters on EduLink - can this be sorted.
- Send pupils, as well as parents, a link to the newsletter.
- Pupils need to be reminded to check email accounts.
- Do not launch Parents' Evening appointments on a working day - suggested time Sunday.
- Still some problems with not all Achievement points being logged.
- Give points for bringing back surveys / raffle tickets.
- Clarify Prom ticket reduction.
- Give regular updates on UCAS via EduLink.
- Can be temperamental.
- Most liked it as a communication tool.
- Add assessment / test dates so parents can support pupils.

7. **PTFA charity support through Fundraising UK**

DC distributed a reminder of how to use Fundraising UK. Great way to raise funds for the school (Appendix)

8. **Curriculum/Enrichment**

- Please place all clubs/trip details on EduLink.
- Could they have a craft/cooking club, particularly to develop a hobby.
- The slimmed down curriculum is hard.
- Ebacc adds an extra challenge.
- More Art and Creative Writing clubs.

9. **Picking up and dropping off**

- Traffic on Ashdown Road and in Penland Wood can be awful.
- Use of seafront is good, but pupils and parents do not like the tunnel - can you apply to the council for lighting? Because of the twists and turns, many pupils find it threatening and do not want to walk through it on their own.

10. **EBI**

EBIs from meeting of 10th/11th October:

- Literature details now on website.
- Edulink is evolving. ICT Services Manager passes on all requests to the company.
- Tutors to be reminded to share messages with class.
- DC to speak to P Hoyle re trips and the advertisement of them.
- Pupils to receive a link to newsletters too.
- Miss Easton is available to offer pastoral support to Upper School, as are Mrs White and Ms Tester.

11. **Any Other Business**

- Some concerns re Sports Studies - girls want to be taught by female staff.
- Intervention should be intervention and not revising on own.
- Maths intervention has been particularly helpful.
- Some Year 7s do not know they have an email account.
- If pupils used their emails more then there would be no need for a phone request.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

Next meetings: Wednesday, 16th January (9.15am)
 Thursday, 17th January (6.15pm)

Please let my PA know of requests for future agenda items.

Thank you for your contribution.

Appendix: Easy Fundraising

Sent: 08/11/2018 10:58:44
To prime parents of: [Click here to show the recipient list](#)
Message Type: Email
Subject: Support the St Richard's Catholic College PTFA with Easy Fundraising

Dear Parent/Carer

As Christmas is quickly approaching and shopping will soon begin, I would like to take this opportunity to mention to you about the Easy Fundraising App. St Richard's PTFA could earn hundreds of pounds from online retailers which in turn gets passed to the school to purchase equipment.

If you are unable to attend PTFA meetings or help at events you can always follow the instructions below to register and help to raise extra cash for our children from the comfort of your home.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

If using a smart phone download the Easy Fundraising App

If using a computer log on to Easyfundraising.org.uk and click on Join Now/Search for a cause.

Input ***St Richard's Catholic College PTFA, Bexhill***

Click Join Us and register your details OR log in with Facebook.

Once registered you can shop online with thousands of retailers by using any search engine OR by using easyfundraising.org.uk, the donations vary from shop to shop. There are over 10,000 online stores that can give a donation to St Richard's - from grocery to clothing stores to superstores or even when purchasing your holiday or any insurance, breakdown cover etc!

If you do choose to do the above please make sure you download the donation reminder at the top of

the easy fundraising page, this way whenever you shop online you will be asked if you wish to Activate a donation from the retailer you are using.

PLEASE PASS ON THE WORD TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS, HAPPY SHOPPING!

Nicky Cave
PTFA Chair