

# Parental Focus Group Minutes



**Date of Meeting:** **Wednesday, 12th June (morning)**  
**Thursday, 13th June (evening)**

**Present:** Ms Jones, Miss Govan, Mrs Hindmarsh, Mrs King, Mrs McAdie, Mrs Quasem, Mrs Towns and Mrs Whiteley (morning group)  
Mrs Brown, Mrs Griffin, Mrs King, Mrs Sanderson and Mrs Young (evening group)

**Apologies:** Mrs Corbin, Ms Hale, Miss Pocock, Mrs Pepper and Mrs Read

## 1. Matters Arising (May meeting)

- Last meeting for Mrs Whiteley and Miss Govan (am) and Mrs King (pm) – thanked for their support.
- Shown battery box/bottle tops that Geography Club are collecting. Every parent suggested that the pupils should use the Tetracycle website for more ideas.
- Homework feedback from the last meeting was passed on.
- Reporting – will keep pastoral front cover. Parents like 2 reports for Year 7 and like reports just before Parents' Evening. Agreed Year 11 should continue with 1 Parents' Evening and one summative report. Profiles – parents want to keep the same. Parents felt there is lots of testing for children, but that it is necessary.
- Parents asked if they were now getting an acknowledgement receipt when sending attendance – no-one had received an acknowledgement.
- PE kit – Mr Dallaway passed around samples of the new kit. Parents were pleased with it. Older pupils will keep current kit until they need to order new sizes – new kit is aimed at new Year 7 to start with. Parents also looked at letter and order form – parents were happy with this, though asked about a deadline date to order. Parents also passed around a sample jumper – they liked the feel and quality, but would like to see how it washes. Elbows are the main issue with the current jumper.

## 2. Rewards Proposal

Updated reward system for September was handed out for comments. Comments were:

- Achievement criteria – add to maths – ‘maths excellence’
- Tuck/early lunch pass – no use for packed lunch people or parents who cannot afford to buy tuck/lunch every day. Suggested alternatives included a free hot drink or a smoothie.
- What is ‘gift from Pastoral Leader’ for 150 points?
- Points for attending a club - is this weekly or termly?
- ‘Good organisation’ appears twice on the list.
- Make it clearer to Year 11 that by collecting their points, they can get a reduction on the Prom ticket.

Subject postcards will still be sent home and therefore should be on poster.

Parents also commented that some staff need reminders as they forget to give them. Pop-up prompts are going to come up on computers to remind staff.

### **3. Homework Policy - Revised**

A copy of the revised homework policy was handed out for comment. Comments were:

- Year 9 sometimes have 3 subjects per night – more than Year 10/11.
- Seems to be a lot of EAPD (Expressive Arts/Product Design) – in fact only 1 of the 3 days – depends on timetable.
- No RE in Year 7 – important to have.
- Thought Year 7 homework should be 30 minutes and keep Year 11 at 45 minutes. Some parents felt homework for Upper School should be 45 minutes per subject and revision homework.
- Literacy/Numeracy homework should be set.

Going to trial attendance at an extra-curricular club for Year 7. Parent raised issue that pupils don't always like to attend clubs without their friends – suggestion of getting to know each other session on first week of a new club.

If not doing MFL will pupil get literacy/numeracy homework instead?

For new Year 7, intending to set more 'learn to learn' at the beginning to help them try new things e.g. Memrise – parents liked this idea.

Problem that teachers still don't always set homework on time. It should be online by 3.15pm for pupils who attend Prep Club – to add to policy. Homework being added to EduLink on a Sunday is also not acceptable.

### **4. Targets**

Parents asked for their views on this:

Works best in Upper School as it means more.

Parents need explanation on how and why targets are set – letter with first profile in Year 7 needed. Year 7 settling-in parents' evening is a good opportunity to discuss targets and if suitable.

Felt the flightpath is a good illustration of targets and each year move up one level.

Discussion around whether PE and Performing Arts need a target especially in Year 7. Targets are set in Year 7 by Mr Tadros based on SATS/CATS, after this it is up to Subject Leaders to adjust.

Every parent said it was important for the pupils to have targets – they are set targets in primary school related to SATS.

### **5. WWW/EBI 2018-2019**

Post-its notes were handed out for parents to write their WWW/EBI for this year.

#### **WWW**

- Transition programme for Year 6-7 was excellent – well informed and built confidence.
- Excellent variety of clubs
- Reports and pupil profiles are excellent and informative
- Email messages
- All round teaching
- Excellent relationship with teachers
- Opportunities to communicate (PFG)
- Andrew Wright sessions
- Great variety of clubs
- Good variety of homework tasks
- Heads of year support
- GCSE revision sessions
- Support from teachers
- RE treats for revision session were very popular
- Update letter from Mr Doherty
- Wellbeing drop-in with Andrew Wright
- Excellent support for GCSEs – extra lessons and Saturdays
- EduLink is very good
- Reward points are good incentive
- Excellent extra-curricular opportunities

- Good communication – will phone home etc. and always brilliant, quick replies to emails (am amazed) – thank you.
- Postcards home
- Transition into new year
- Curriculum evening
- Wellbeing content
- Teacher access
- EduLink
- Sports Hall completion
- Andrew Wright wellbeing
- New kit – good improvement
- Sports Hall
- Joint evening with other schools e.g. Spanish tapas
- Exam prep has been fantastic
- Dedication of teachers to provide revision sessions
- Andrew Wright meetings
- Revision meeting and classes
- Revision classes – have been a great help including those carried out in the holidays and weekends
- Homework Club – excellent to have and revision support
- Really enjoyed PFG – really gets you involved in the school, particularly enjoyed the tour of the sports hall
- Buddies for revision worked well

#### **EBI**

- Form group teambuilding activity at an early stage e.g. Ashburnham
- Club teambuilding for Year 7 – getting to know each other first session
- Effort grade on report and explanation of targets outside of the newsletter for Year 7.
- Use text for urgent messages.
- More detail on Year 8 option choice for Year 9
- Seminar evenings spread out a little bit more – 6.30-7.30pm is a good time.
- More communication when clubs change/cancelled
- More consistent approach to teachers adding Achievement Points
- Gloves for litter picking when doing Community Service
- Clearer information for what EBacc week is
- Some revision sessions cancelled last minute
- English revision session
- Have clarity over leaving and study at home
- Changing rooms in new sports hall
- Better jumpers
- Continue to entice them into the library, afterschool and lunch clubs
- More outside learning – subjects i.e. outings to reinforce – visual learning and making the subject fun
- Get a blazer for St Richard's
- Afterschool counselling lessons on site so don't miss lessons or be seen to be leaving lessons for sessions
- Communication re exams/options
- Communication on targets
- Rewards seen through – has been improving
- Train communication – assembly
- Year 11 homeworks need to be genuinely useful
- Encouraging friends to join clubs together
- Not doing more challenging work in maths and just covering the easy maths

**6. Curriculum Evenings in September – content?**

- Parents were asked to comment on content and timing of Curriculum Evenings. Parents felt 6-7pm was OK, perhaps 6.30-7.30pm instead.
- Would like Andrew Wright workshops to continue next year and include wellbeing sessions. Otherwise happy with current content of sessions.
- Ensure ‘how to revise’ in all years is in the programme.

**8. Mission Week 2019**

Miss Cronin explained this will be taking place in November for first time in 5 years. A group come in and set activities for the week. There will also be some evening events for parents, as well as pupils.

**9. AOB**

- Year 8 options: parents received this with little explanation – need more information in the letter and the implications of choices e.g. what is difference between computing and ICT? Miss Cronin explained how this works, that pupils can go back to something they have dropped for GCSE and making these options makes pupils more focused.
- Cancelled trains: Parents would like more advice on what to tell their children to do in this situation. Will add to next newsletter. Asked about the possibility of a text message instead of email – we have no texting service as this is expensive.
- Concerns raised about language of a sexual nature heard in the playground/lessons in current Year 8 – pupils repeat words but don’t understand. Recommended that Year 8 have an assembly on ‘use of language’ and their digital image.
- Thanks to all parents who have attended meetings this year. Your input is really valued. Have a wonderful summer.