

Parental Focus Group Minutes



Date of Meeting: **Wednesday, 11th March (morning)**
Thursday, 19th March (evening)

Present: **Morning group:** Ms Hale, Mrs Hindmarsh, Ms Joyce, Mrs Read, Mrs Towns, Mrs Carey, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Weatley
Evening group:

Apologies: Ms R Jones, Ms S Forte, Ms C Read, Mrs S McAdie,

1. **Matters Arising**

Miss Cronin informed parents of the format of the meeting.

Year 9 are going to have a knife assembly on Tuesday 17th March at 9am (time tbc).
Parents are able to attend if they wish.

Year 10 will also have an assembly at a later date.

Coronavirus update:

A Pandemic Plan has been put together for Coronavirus. Staff are reminding children to wash their hands regularly. They have been shown videos on how to wash hands correctly and reminded to wash hands if they have been on public transport. All classrooms have a box of tissues and there are sanitisers in some. Children are welcome to bring their own sanitiser in to school.

Toilets will be checked regularly throughout the day to make sure there is sufficient soap.

In the event that the school has to close, Mr Smith is making a list of children who don't have access to a laptop / internet at home. All work will be on Googleclassroom.

Trips: The school is keeping a close eye on what is happening. The French trip is going ahead at the moment. Miss Cronin will be at the meeting with parents.

2. **Curriculum Model 2020-2022**

Miss Cronin showed parents a copy of the Curriculum Model for 2020-21.

Pupils seem really interested in the BTEC Health and Social Care course.

Some subjects may not run if there is not much interest in them.

Children could put a change in now if they wanted to.

3. **MHEW Support Guidance and Threshold Document (DBI)**

Mrs Bligh went through the document and explained that it is still a draft document at the present. The school uses a good system (Myconcerns) to record any worries concerning a child.

Staff are careful to differentiate between something that is concerning and something that is part of growing up.

There are roughly 30-40 flags a day.

There are lots of good provisions in place to help pupils.

Mrs Bligh asked if parents thought the charts are useful to parents.
St Richard's offers a varied support system for pupils. For example being able to text/email the school nurse. Mr Padgham and Mrs Knight both have time in their timetable to support children. If parents wish to make a referral for their child, it would go through the Pastoral Leader in the first instance.
Parents were able to take the document home but asked that it isn't shared with anyone as it is still in draft form.

Parents were asked to feedback on the document to pa@strichardscc.com
What would be useful to a parent / what wouldn't?

4. **Sleep (DBI)**

5. **Rewards – House Points**

6. **Social Media / IT Technology (MHo)**

Mr Hollingsworth showed parents a short video on how social media now affects all of us.

Average 12-13 year olds check their phone 150 times a day.

Parents are best able to control this by reducing the amount of time children are on their devices. You can control how long they are on their apps for.

The average gamer age is 32 year old male. Children could be playing online with an adult and not know it. Parents should take an interest in their children's games and play with them.

Parents can:

- educate children about locking down profiles
- not accept friend requests from people they don't know
- teach them about what to put on their profiles
- teach them the importance of what they say online
- reduce access – keep electronics out of bedrooms
- be open in terms of social media

BBC have released app – 'Own It'. The app is linked to the keyboard on your child's phone and will analyse what is being typed. A pop-up will recommend content that might be helpful to them or it might intervene if the child is typing something to check that they are happy to share the information with others.

A good app to control what/how children are viewing is called 'Screen time' – roughly £5 a month.

Google nest wifi can also restrict websites that you don't want children accessing.

Need to try and have a balance in life.

7. **How to support your child with Maths (RJ)**

Mr Jacobs showed parents a powerpoint:

Motivation: carrot and stick approach. Mr Jacobs and other teachers happy to speak to pupils regarding how to be more motivated.

English and Maths – if a child fails their GCSE and they stay in education, they will need to keep retaking until they pass.

Getting off to the best start: times tables is the most important skill. 'Times Table Rockstars' is a very good programme to use.

A weakness for lots of children is names and properties of shapes. Ten sided shape and 12 sided shape. Extra help at home would be good for this.

How do you get the best possible result at GCSE?

- Best to revise little and often – do extra questions.
- Make the best of intervention
- MathsWatch revision homework
- Past Papers
- Two mocks – 4 complete mocks. Will receive personal results when they have done their mocks to show strengths and weaknesses. Specific list of things they need to work on. Will be doing it for Year 10 too.
- Current Year 10 is first year that have had 3 years to cover GCSE curriculum. Mixture of curriculum and revision in Year 11.

Exam Tips:

- Read question carefully
- Underline key words
- Plan how you structure your answer
- Show full workings
- If allowed a calculator – use it
- Make sure you answer the question
- One mark per minute

Mock papers are sent home to review. We have cue cards, books, etc for sale. Pupils can get a letter from Mr Massey.

Changes to Maths GCSE:

Foundation – 3 papers (1 non calculator and 2 calculator)

Higher – 3 papers (1 non calculator and 2 calculator)

MathsWatch: Mr Jacobs showed parents an example of homework tasks on MathsWatch. Pupils can use website for revision. Lots of videos to remind pupils of topics. Can also download a worksheet if they prefer that.

Please contact mrjacobsr@strichardscc.com or pa@strichardscc.com if you have any questions.

8. Report from Headteacher on activities within the school

9. Supporting children to revise

A Wright running an evening on revision on 21/3/2020.

10. Any Other Business

Attachments:

Support your child with Maths - powerpoint

Draft MHEW Support Guidance and Threshold Document