

## Parents' Forum – 9 November 2017

Jon Berridge, Assistant Vice Principal, introduced himself as taking over the Parents' Forum.

Mrs Gabbi updated the meeting about the changes since the last meeting:

- Miss O'Leary has left and Mr Jones is leaving at the end of term. We also appointed a senior vice principal, Mr Gopal Barria, who will start in January.
- There was an HMI Monitoring Visit last week. The draft report arrived today. The report will be shared when it is confirmed. It is very positive and recognises the progress we have made in all areas. It reflects the direction Mr Boxall started the school on, the hard work of the leadership team and the fantastic work by staff. The students were also fantastic.
- Behaviour is improving, but where it has not been dealt with in the past it will take a while to improve even though we are dealing with it robustly.
- Year 11 results are key and we have been working very hard, across all the staff, to ensure they are successful. They are the most focussed Year 11 group we have seen and they tell us they feel very prepared.
- After the parents raised the difficulties with the website we have commissioned a new website. There will also be a new logo. In early 2018 we will have a new website. It will include a link to Go 4 Schools, which will be going live in January.
- We are trying very hard to work with parents and the community. We realise that you do not want your children coming to a school in Special Measures, but after the HMI visit it is clear that we will not be in SM long.
- We will also be working on improving the uniform – this doesn't mean we will change it! Even the new logo will be phased in. One area we will be changing will be shoes will be compulsory rather than trainers. The trainers let down the overall impression of the uniform.
- Punctuality and lateness will also be raised in the letter about higher expectations.

### Parent questions

- What about the sixth form uniform?
  - Hoodies have been stopped and we will phase in more formal dress expectations.
- Will we not be doing the end of year leavers' hoodies?
  - Yes, but students won't be able to wear them to school.
- Will the 35 minute lunchtime be retained?
  - It is working really well. We have added 5 minutes to break and lunchtime. Students are getting through the serveries in about 20 minutes.
  - We will review the issue with students using a survey.
  - *Issues were raised about the problem of students doing clubs and activities.*
- Some parents were concerned that there was a real disparity in the quality of tutoring.
- Why are the sixth formers not allowed to eat in the canteen? There is nowhere for them to eat.
  - We will look into this.
  - Sixth form students are allowed to eat in the canteen, but once they have eaten then we expect them to move on and make room for other students.

- One parent felt it was important that the older students are given the opportunity to mix as good role models for the younger students.
  - We are also trying to step up our visibility using fluorescent jackets.
- Are students being locked in at lunch and break?
  - No, but some doors are being locked to try to encourage students into the safer areas of the site.
  - We have also submitted a CIF bid to improve the security of the site and we hope that this will be successful.
- Why is SIMs Learning Gateway not working now?
  - It is being replaced by Go 4 Schools.
- There was a general feeling that parents had not been informed about the new behaviour systems.
  - Parents will be updated with the details of this when the letter about higher expectations are sent out.
- Changes will be explained at a series of parents' evenings.
- An issue with homework where students were asked to revise but had no books to revise from.
  - This will be looked at.
- Are there target stickers?
  - These are about to be distributed.
  - This information will also be available on Go 4 Schools.
  - For instance House Points will be available (this year 18000 points have been awarded and 14000 were positive house points and only 4000 are negative.)
- Issues about how to improve parents' evenings were discussed, particularly the issue of privacy.
- How important are the houses now?
  - We kept the houses as part of the pastoral system with the Pastoral Mentors. But we will look at it in more detail as we look at ethos and values.
- Some parents were uncertain about who their children's form tutors are.
- Is it worth doing a data collection of phone numbers and emails?
  - This will be done.
- Can we have a list of teachers, their subjects and their emails?

## **PTA**

The PTA is a way to bring the community into the school and celebrate everything that is good.

For it to run there is quite a formal process with constitutions and a committee etc.

For the committee we would like to have parents from the Parents' Forum join the PTA committee as we already have a positive relationship to build on.

Thursday evenings are good for parents.

First meeting will be Thursday 30 November 2017 at 6.30pm in the sixth form.

Mr Berridge will send the text about this out to the same list as invites to the Parents' Forum.

This meeting will look at terms of reference, constitution, an AGM and a launch event.