

Notes from
Parental Forum Meeting
26th November 2014

1. Feedback from the previous meeting

Mr Major provided some feedback relating to some of the points raised at the last meeting.

- We now have employed an Attendance Officer and 'attendance call' is now running.
- Following a request from the Parental Forum, we ran a Year 7 Information Evening in the Autumn Term to go with the 'Meet the Tutors' evening.
- Mr Major will produce an information sheet for parents regarding peer and self-assessment of work. This will be produced this term.
- Information to parents regarding progress – we have increased the regularity of information to Sixth Form parents to six times a year.
- Revision at KS3 – Heads of Year/Heads of Department have been informed about increasing this focus.
- Mr Major requested 2/3 parents to help form a group to look at skirts. Ms Rushby will lead this group.

2. School Trips and Procedures

Mr Major briefly outlined the system for authorising a trip and the steps required before any trip leaves the school. The Surrey 'Evolve' system is used and any residential trip needs authorisation by the Local Authority.

Parental views:

- The consensus was that they would like to be informed when a residential trip arrives at its destination. Suggestions were through text, email or twitter.
- That there could be scope for more trips for the whole class to support learning.
- They enjoy trips that have a blog although ensuring a range of children were in the photos.
- Parents would like to pay online for trips.
- To ensure that the contact details sheet is only completed once each year but kept for all trips.

3. Transition

Ms Rushby outlined some of the transition details from this year and her role linking with primary schools.

Parental views:

- The issue of being fully informed about all problems in Year 6 was highlighted in order to allocate students to form groups.
- Some parents wanted to see English and Maths setting from the start of Year 7.
- There was a suggestion to establish a talk for Year 6 parents about how to help your child settle easily into Year 7. A couple of parents would like to help develop this aspect with the school.
- There was concern about the lack of space to eat lunch and in particular, time to eat. This was leading some students to not eat or purchase food at break instead.
- Weight of bags and that e-books should be used more.
- Some parents felt that there should not be detentions in the first half term.
- Feel that the website lacks sufficient information or it's out of date.
- Some parents would like more information about progress throughout the year. A suggestion was the use of the pupil planners to record assessment results. Some parents would like more feedback on progress before parents' evening at the end of the year.
- More Year 5 & 6 visits to Tomlinscote would ease transition further.

Thank you to all the parents who attended and contributed very valuable information.

Mr Major