



## Parents' Forum Meeting Minutes

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

4.00pm

In Attendance: Mrs Hutley, Mrs Thorncraft Smith, Mr Browne, Mrs Ubhi

Apologies: Mrs Wilkins, Mrs Whiteman, Mrs Orpen, Miss Burman

### 1. **Statistics**

Discussion about why Statistics GCSE is now at lunchtime rather than after school as last year. Have to fit in with staff timetable/availability. An extra subject to support the gifted mathematicians, much is self-directed and pupils taking it are aware of the need for the additional time to give to the subject.

### 2. **Music Lessons and Timings**

These are scheduled in accordance with the peripatetic staff availability and the vacancy of the rooms. Where possible they are rotated through curriculum time (not always possible) and also where possible the Yr11 pupils get priority over before school, lunchtimes and after school slots.

### 3. **Quilt**

The quilt which used to hang in the hall, will be given to Mrs Thorncraft-Smith to look at with a view to cleaning it in time for the June alumnus event.

### 4. **Lockers**

Question of whether it would be helpful/possible to have lockers to avoid the carrying of lots of stuff. Not space to have a locker per pupil, and may not meet the need ref size/have the desired result. PH will mail form staff, especially Yr7 to advise them on how to manage: organisation for books - not to carry more than 2/3 lessons worth and to change over at break / lunch time so bags are not too heavy. Keep textbooks in desk unless required for homework. Better organisation - re taking PE kit home for laundry. There is maybe a timetabling issue if Cookery and PE are on the same day- but kit bag for PE can be left in school on peg and just the laundry from it taken home?

### 5. **Collaboration with other schools**

Though Mrs De Silva wasn't present to discuss this, we considered whether we could investigate pen friends from abroad, or even exchanges for languages (this is more fraught with challenges) but will pass both comments on to teachers concerned (The Rotary Club exchange programme was referred to).

### 6. **AOB**

i) Cooking/missing lunch issues recently with cookery overrunning into lunchtime and lunch being missed. The member of staff will be spoken to about how we can speed up the process, and advised pupils must get their lunch even if they return to cookery after eating.

(ii) One week timetable - all agreed this was a very positive move.

(iii) Prize Giving update. Nothing to record or act on.

(iv) Mrs Thorncraft-Smith reminded me of recommended person for Trustees - have handed details to Chairman, who will decide whether to pursue after discussion with other board members. We now have a fuller board and there is less urgency. Thank you for the recommendation though.

(v) Mrs Thorncraft-Smith informed me that a former Head of NHS had sadly passed away (Denis Whitcombe).

(vi) Discussion about style of senior skirt re sitting cross legged/decorum now co-ed. PH to speak with Schoolwear Solutions and get samples of potential other styles.

(vii) Hair - we were asked to have a more consistent message about permitted hairstyles.

(vii) school fixtures was raised - need to increase for sporty children. PH pointed out that we have more fixtures than ever before and all available staff to run fixtures have a programme of such across different sports. Also recommended that we actively request pupils to attend clubs and netball academies etc... We do this, but maybe not enough.

(viii) Question about where plates had gone – noticed they came back for inspection. Clarified that whenever children are in the hall, if the dishwasher is working and we have full complement of staff in the kitchen, that plates are used.

(ix) Bells at St Peter's – Mrs Thorncraft-Smith asked if I could put out a message to pupils and their parents that bell ringers are required at St Peter's for Carol Concert. Will put on a newsletter and through social media.

#### **4. Next Meeting**

The next Parents' Forum Meeting will be held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00pm.