

Minutes of Parents Voice Meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2015

Present: T Hewitt, J Taylor, A Ashburner, J Mesley, D Walker, A Cross, F Berri
 Apologies: D Wood
 Absent:

CC: KP

Item	Discussion	Action by
1	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Query over whether anything can be done about the water provision for students on the Normanby Site - not considered to be good quality and difficult to access for students. • Parents not receiving information sent out by the College - letters don't always get home. Please can they have as many different ways as possible of being informed of events/developments etc (e.g. text messages, website, facebook, letters) 	<p>JTa to refer to P Shepherdson</p> <p>CCW</p>
2	<p><u>Information and Support Event</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice from H Kirk announced to parents present regarding the 'Information and Support' evening on the 25 June. Parents informed that more details will be issued in June. 	<p>HJK</p>
3	<p><u>Site Changes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all parents aware of changes as did not receive letter (see point in matters arising). • Brief explanation of changes given, overview of where year groups will be for transition weeks and in September. • Query re movement of students between sites, concerns about safety. The explained this would be limited but necessary for certain subjects where access to specialist equipment required. This was seen as acceptable to parents present. • Suggestion to put in foot bridge or make alterations to old railway line - discussed. • Query re amount of space on Normanby Site that would be available with an extra year group present. Concerns over impact on breaks and lunch times in particular and whether there would be alternative sittings for lunch etc. Discussed. • Query re Astro turf and whether it was due for resurfacing - T Hewitt explained developments, latest work completed suggests it has another 4 years prior to this being required. 	
4	<p><u>Engagement of parents strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on the fact that many parents who would like to be involved are often those that are the most busy. Agreement around table. • Suggestion of questionnaire/survey to go out to parents asking them their views on how best to communicate with them and get them involved. This could include questions re best times/nights/events to motivate them. • Ofsted Parents Voice suggested by T Hewitt. • Suggestion to use launch of the academy to push further parental involvement and advertise it to parents ("Your academy needs you!"). • Maintain different kinds of parents' evenings but make sure subject evenings are a priority as this is what parents most want, particularly at GCSE. • Possibly hold Parents Voice meetings at alternative venues - linked primaries, villages etc. • Put out agendas with things that will make parents want to attend and share their opinions - e.g. changing holiday timings/dates if we become an academy; changing times of school day; uniform changes etc • Extend parents evenings to run from the afternoon into the evening – students to attend with parents and it becomes part of their school day. Suggestion 2.00-6.00pm? • Hold events where specific parents are invited e.g. The Curry Evening. Invite parents of critical marginals to attend or other groups identified. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold an awareness night for parents where they complete elements of the exams students complete – show them what’s involved. This could form part of a welcome event? 	
5	<u>Uniform – optional jumpers with CCW logo, bought from College</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents in favour of students being able to wear jumpers under blazers if they choose. Not in favour of them wearing jumpers instead of blazers. • Comments on how smart the students look and how pleased parents are overall with the quality of the uniform. • Comments re school shoes spoiling the uniform for some students. Comments about trousers on girls not always following the standard laid out. • All parents felt optional jumpers would be a good idea. 	JJB
6	<u>Home and School Funding - Year 7 Reading Book Scheme</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme explained by J Taylor on behalf of S Canty. • All parents in favour of funding being used to the benefit of Year 7 students. To discuss with D Wood/S Nedley. 	JTa
7	<u>A.O.B.</u> <p>Academy Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Cross raised concern that this had been announced seemingly ‘out of the blue’ with no preamble. • T Hewitt explained process of application and consultation, including the events held to inform parents. • Query re LA view of situation. Discussed briefly. • Discussion of how academy status could lead to greater collaboration between schools in area. • Query re academies and whether they could employ non-qualified teachers. T Hewitt addressed this, emphasising importance and desire to employ and keep high quality staffing. • Questions re services that would need to be bought in. Discussed. • Questions re directors and who they would be. Would there also be opportunities for parents and students to be more involved and have more of a role in driving things forward? Discussed. • Query re date of confirmation. Discussion of expected October start if all goes through. <p>Year 9 transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Query re some kind of ‘leaving’ event for Year 9 given they have seen other Year 9 groups hold the prom each year. Not suggesting prom but some kind of event to mark their transition. Needs further discussion. 	ST

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