

Parent Voice Minutes

2nd February 2017

Staff present: Michelle Longmore

Dr Smith
Jeanette Shea
Gavin Swinscoe
David Sim
Darren Smith
Carol Gill

Introduction and welcome by Mrs Longmore, Vice Principal

Minutes from previous meeting reviewed

Macmillan coffee morning – very successful, both the assembly and the coffee morning were well supported and a total of £410.31 was raised.

Communication between teachers and students – The VMG portal which was introduced last September has seen a big improvement in communications.

MyMaths – Y7

DSI has issued passwords – all students should have them.

Trips

All school trips, term dates, fixtures, shows etc. can be found on the school website.

Agenda items

Parent – A student stated her son had passed his DofE, she was emailed to say he'd passed, he collected his certificate and that was it! There was no presentation and this parent felt after such an achievement this was a bit 'flat'.

Response - DSI to get involved with Y9 & Y10 Bronze, obtain a list of the students from SBL and organise.

Parent – Y11 Options meeting on the 5th January, no reminder after letter sent. Engineering Fair – Parent received letter and asked return reply slip if they required the minibus from here to P16. When the event was cancelled, only the parents who had returned their slip indicating they required the minibus were notified, other parents didn't, therefore turned up to the event!

Response – DSI stated the letter will be looked at and that the event was cancelled due to lack of interest but there is another similar event in Retford coming up.

Parent – The new coloured cards, Red, Amber and Green, Y10 students don't like it and staff have stopped using it.

Response – PS & GS stated this could be reviewed GS explained why we are using this system and that it only started on the 1st February.

Parent – Thank you so much for organising the ski trip.

Parent – Wanted to say ‘thank you’ for everything we do. Her daughter had been asked to remove/tone down her make-up, parent was happy about this and appreciates all we do.

‘A’ level choices – who do parents speak to regarding this?

Response – JS stated final choices are not set in stone and ticked the box for appointment and to meet with parent.

Parent – Y7 students having problems on the Gateford bus, spoke with Mrs Bradley and the problem sorted. Parent went on to say although the school is amazing, she doesn’t understand the double standards, zero tolerance for eg. litter in school but then there’s such bad behaviour on the buses, eg. swearing, smoking, condoms being thrown etc. Also that students would feel safer with CCTV on the buses.

ML – Stated we are aware and it’s not acceptable but that we have a good relationship with the bus companies.

PS – Stated if students report these incidents it will be dealt with in school and to thank students for doing so and to please keep doing it.

Parent to contact and speak to the bus company and the Local Authorities to raise these issues.

CG – Agreed this was a good idea and would obtain details for the parent and for as many parents as possible to complain so these incidents are looked into. Also if the Local Authorities are made aware then they may not be as keen to use the same bus companies in the future. Parent happy with this.

Parent – No presentation for DofE certificates or for KS4 and KS5. Student Voice meeting – no texts sent.

CG – There will be a presentation for Student Voice Awards in July as there was last academic year.

Student Voice details to possibly go on website.

Parent – Comment on last Parents Evening, 12th January that there was a very lengthy wait between appointments, some parents have more to discuss than others – perhaps staff should consider contacting parents at a later date to discuss such matters rather than keeping other parents waiting.

Also, a big disappointment was that there was no CareersInc available that evening.

DSI – Another CareersInc. Advisor was sent to cover for parents evening but arrived a little late.

Parent – Contacted CareersInc. and the reply was about a completely different student but with a similar name, data protection – not good.

At parents evening the teachers were very approachable and supportive.

Parent left mental health leaflet with ML.

Parent – Thankyou to DSI, CE, ML and also to JU who took time to contact parent at home to praise student.

Enrichments – can these be on the website please? Also, parents not sure when enrichments have been cancelled and if students are telling the truth.

Homework – not a lot of it, could parents have feedback on what topics students have been covered each term.

DSI – An update of the enrichment brochure is at the printers.

PS – Topics when covered to be available for parents so they can support students at home.

ML – Enrichments are on the website but this could perhaps be developed.

Parent – Praising Stars Data, how do we check accuracy as there was recently a mistake for one student.

DS – Staff do regular standardisation processes in Lesson and Planning every Tuesday and discuss together, DS is confident this is accurate, Learning Managers query if need be. Any anomalies please let us know.

ML – Admitted there was a mistake for one particular student but this was rectified.

Parent – If we have any questions, who do we contact?

DS – Email into enquiries inbox as this is checked regularly throughout the day and forwarded onto the relevant member of staff.

CG – Gave email out and advised parents that it's on the website.

DS – If parents telephone into the Academy and can't get through, assured parents if they leave a message this will also be passed on.

APB – Nothing raised.

Next meeting Thursday 8th June at 4.30pm