

Notes from the Parents' Forum held 17 March 2009

Unfortunately fewer parents attended than we would have liked but those that joined us gave us some very useful ideas to follow up and thought provoking suggestions for the future – thank you! Below is a summary of the evening discussion, if you have any queries regarding aspects of this please do not hesitate to contact Ms Bailey and please feel invited to our next meeting (date to be confirmed) – all are welcome.

Topic for discussion	Strengths / positive outcomes	Areas for improvement	By whom/by when
Review of previous discussion on rewards for pupils	Many new initiatives have been put in place including termly prizes for attendance and effort as well as achievement. The awards and a list of the winners are on the school website – all very popular with the pupils.		
Review of support given to pupils and their learning - There was concern from some parents that too little homework was being set and sometimes lack of clarity around tasks set	The following were completed by January 2009: *Planners spot checked for all years. *Form tutor observations, focus on planner checking *Reminder given to all departments for the need for a planned homework schedule	*Year 7's to be invited form by form to homework club with a reward incentive	Ms Bailey / Ms Jamieson / Ms Henshaw by March 2009
Review of communication with parents – there were 2 main areas of concern - *Informing parents if sports are running late *Regular communication with parents throughout the year so parents' evening is less rushed	The following were completed by January 2009 * Sport team members are encouraged to bring a mobile with them if they are playing away. All phones to be held by PE staff *All tutors were reminded to use pupil planners for communicating with parents & to call home as appropriate		
Feedback on the new school website	*Very useful for information and especially useful during the snow falls *Useful to know about all the out of school activities * Current information about the school and it's activities and events is excellent	*Could the website link the various calendars? *Could the newsletter be put on the website rather than generating paper copies? * Could copies of all the school forms that need to be signed and returned be available on the website as many of the pupils lose/ forget them – and could a reminder for their returns be put on the home page?	Tutors / Mr Keen / Mr Marsdon By the end of the summer term 2009
Discussion on parents having their own area of the website (a blog)	* Could be used to share inspirational / motivating news with other parents * Could be a resource for support such as babysitters or trades such as plumbers, builders etc * Would be useful to share community events news * Could be used for reviews – pupil support sites or to review courses for adults that are run at the school	*Would need to be edited by school staff – would this be too time consuming? * There was lack to clarity about how this could be taken forward, how would parents begin generating a blog?	Ms Bailey / Mr Keen By the end of the summer term
A.O.B Two items were raised: *Would the school consider introducing summer dresses and /or open necked blouses into the school uniform? *Could the lunch queue order be adjusted so that the lower years have a greater opportunity to purchase the 'specials'?	* The school 'special' lunches are very popular and more would opt for a hot / healthy lunch if they could.	*The school council will discuss the uniform options at their next meeting in April. The outcomes will be put on the website. *Investigation into the possibility of increasing the number of 'specials' will be made. Consideration will be given to the lunch queuing system	School council By April 2009 Leadership Group By summer half term 2009