

## Parent Council News – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Welcome and Introductions

### There was a summary of issues raised and actions completed from last year's Parent Council meetings:

- The School Parliament election process has been modified so that there are yearly elections giving more students the opportunity to get involved.
- We have tried to include parents in revision activities and these are available on the school website.
- There has been a change to the use of yellow stickers and all staff are aware that a '12' can be awarded for students with a target of a '9' if they are consistently achieving their target grade.
- Literacy and communications leader has been appointed.
- To address the issues with mental health, two appointments have been made – one colleague focusing on wellbeing and mental health and another as a senior learning mentor in the Sixth Form.
- Our foci for this year will be on teaching for understanding and encouraging independent learners and as such the teacher planners have been changed to include Blooms Taxonomy planning tools.
- Communication with parents has been discussed with the School's Senior Leadership Team.
- We have written to parents about the new homework policy.

### We then discussed the Homework Policy in more detail:

- There are different approaches in departments e.g. some setting more small, regular homework and some more project based longer term homework
- Teams is the method of setting homework online, although planners will still be used in conjunction for now.
- Issues around connectivity in the villages were discussed.
- Students reaction to teams has been positive.
- It was confirmed that the tick box for 'turned in' is not required if the student physically hands in the work and no punishments will be given if this box is not ticked.
- Questions were asked about phasing out the planner – we are going to wait and see on this and decide how it is going after this year.

- Questions were asked about any conflict with the mobile phone policy – this policy will not change and teacher feedback has been that it has not caused any issues.

**Then the parents were given time to raise any issues or queries:**

- Planner signing in form is not consistent.
- Form teachers should be making students aware of the date of signing of planners and perhaps they could publish this on teams for their form group.
- Parents should use normal channels to contact school – not teams.
- School trips were raised and a discussion over how students are selected to attend, this will be discussed with the Senior Leadership Team.
- There was a comment raised about sending paper letters out and whether we could introduce a system asking parents their preferred method of contact when their children join the school to ensure paper is not wasted and email used when preferred.
- Safety of bus stops was discussed, particularly around Penny Bridge (ADe stated that she will attend the meeting on this and school supports the parents).
- The school crossings were also mentioned and safety on the main road particularly now that there are three schools in close proximity.
- Discussion that the safety of crossings around school and surveying the bus stops could be a project for the School Parliament to look into.
- There were lots of issues with the bus service last year and these are continuing – school does not have the ability to improve this service as it is not connected to us.
- Finance issues were raised – ideas around staggering requests on parent pay to ensure large amounts of money were not requested for different things at one time.

ADe closed the meeting and informed the group that at the next meeting there would be a discussion on our focus on independent learning and the training staff that staff are receiving.