

## Parent Council News - Monday 11th June 2018

This was the last meeting of the year of the Parent Council at which there was an open agenda.

The purpose of the Council was discussed with parents suggesting that they find it a useful place to bring issues so that the school can signpost them towards solutions and also where they can ask for advice. It was said that they find school helpful with issues raised.

They believe that part of the school's role is to equip children to face the future.

Regarding alcohol, drugs, and health and sex education parents suggested that an overview of the year would be helpful in order for them to prepare for/discuss with their children and that links to any films etc. would be useful.

Regarding confidential matters that children may wish to discuss that they would not want to raise at home they were reassured that there are people in school available for them to speak to and in particular Mrs. Hewson.

The next discussion was based around revision. Parents were pleased with the wide range of support available in school including lunchtime and evening revision sessions, in class preparation and the variety of approaches taken. They felt that the revision offered was well structured. However it was agreed that some students find it difficult to revise on their own and that when children are asked to 'revise' for homework they seem to find this too open ended and some need clearer, more structured instructions or guidance on revision techniques. Alessandra Desbottes was able to advise parents that the main focus of the school development plan next year will be on Teaching and Learning and work will be done with teachers so that they are able to train their students in different techniques so that individuals are able to find the methods which best suit them.

Healthy eating was debated and it was brought to parents' attention that the week of the meeting was Healthy Eating Week where students were given five challenges including eat breakfast, move more, drink plenty, make a change and eat five a day. Activities were held during the week with the highlight being the whole school congregating on the school field eating different kinds of fruit generously supplied by local shops. Parents expressed the view that they would like to see more vegetarian options in the school canteen but Alessandra Desbottes explained that when they are offered take up is extremely low and therefore uneconomical. It was suggested that parents be surveyed about their views so this will be raised by at a Senior Leadership Team meeting.

Questions were asked about the School Parliament and how it operated and minutes from the last meeting were shared so that parents could get a flavour of issues which are important to pupils. One parent suggested it may be fairer for forms to elect new representatives each year so that more pupils have the chance to participate rather than the current system where members continue year on year. This will be taken to the School Parliament for discussion. A member of the SLT attends each meeting so that students can ask relevant questions and more

recently school governors have been invited. It was suggested that a local councillor could be invited and explain the workings of the council and also possibly to invite a journalist from the Evening Mail. The parliament also has a Charity sub group which runs in school charity events.

The next meeting will be held in the Autumn term and Alessandra Desbottes will speak at the Year 6 into 7 Parents Evening about the Parent Council so that more parents are given the opportunity to attend. Meetings will be held half-termly and dates will be announced before the end of the school year.