

Parent Council News – Monday 20th January 2020

Welcome and Introductions were made by Alessandra Desbottes (ADe)

New members were welcomed.

As new members were present ADe ran through the purpose and achievements of the Parent Council meetings to date:

- The Parent Council is a place to discuss and consider views of parents
- We have discussed and updated the homework policy
- We have briefed parents and discussed teaching for understanding
- There has been discussion about the every day reviewing and memory techniques strategies

Parents stated reasons they attend the meetings:

- Personal interest and finding out more about school than children will relay at home
- Interest in education and approaches to learning
- Improve support for their children
- Help with the transition from primary school and keep in the loop with secondary school
- Improve understanding of the running of the school

ADe discussed the changes to the curriculum we are working on in school:

- Changes to the curriculum are in line with Ofsted requirements
- Children need to be aware of why they are learning and where they are going and be able to understand an overview of the curriculum in each subject
- Others schools have issues when they start KS4 content early and miss out some of the KS3 curriculum and we need to ensure we have no gaps here
- We will be combing each subject area and ensuring they show the breadth required at KS3 and map them to the current National Curriculum requirements
- We need to update subject pathways to ensure students know about the journey they will take in each subject
- We will also be ensuring each subject complies with the Ofsted requirements around 'intent, implementation and impact' for the curriculum
- Connections will also be made between subjects

- Parents asked if it was an increase to teacher workload and it was discussed but they were informed that school has made use of twilight training sessions to provide time for departments to complete the work

AOB:

- Parents asked about the use of the planner and it was revealed that the planner will not be used in its current form in future years and that there would be a replacement 'learning guide' now that teams is being used to set homework
- Parents gave ideas for inclusion in the new 'learning guide' including extra-curricular activities, outside school extra-curricular activities e.g. volunteering, reading recommendations, ideas to reduce anxiety in the classroom – ADe assured parents this will be done in consultation with students and parents
- Discussion over anxiety in the classroom e.g. speaking in class and how teachers aim to support students and appreciate parental help too
- ADe invited all Parent Council members to book a school tour if they are interested in looking around the school during lessons
- Idea was raised about a 'freshers fair' idea for extra-curricular activities for Y7 and Y12 starters

Next meeting:

- ADe invited parents to email her any ideas for agenda items