

Parent Council News – Monday 24th June 2019

From last meeting:

- ADe apologised for the delay in sending out the minutes.
- ADe asked for a parent from the group to present with her at the Year 6 into 7 parents meeting.

School Parliament Update:

- RSi discussed the move to a yearly election process. It is a democratic secret ballot in each form and will take place every year. This has been very successful this year with a new group of representatives from the forms. We have had the first meeting with the new reps on 13th June and it was a very pleasant atmosphere, they look like a good group of reliable and interested reps.
- Parents agreed that this is a better, more democratic system.
- RSi discussed the two sub-committees that are part of School Parliament – the Charity Committee and the Eco-Committee. They are run by the students and are open to any interested student in the school.
- RSi outlined some plans for School Parliament over the coming year, to improve links between the Parliament group and the Senior Leadership Team by having ADe attend every meeting. Also to improve the links between the head boy and girl team and the parliament by ensuring a parliament member attends their meetings with the head teacher as well as a rep from the head boy and girl teams attending parliament meetings.
- A parent asked about the skills being developed as part of the School Parliament meetings and it was agreed that some preparation for chairing meetings, taking and writing up minutes is should be provided prior to the meetings.
- Finally ADe offered an invitation to parent council members to attend a School Parliament meeting to see the work being done.

Enrichment Week:

- ADe gave an overview of the enrichment week activities.
- Discussed getting the eco-committee involved in litter picking for the sponsored walk. We could also consider not providing water bottles but refills for their own bottles.

Project for next academic year:

- ADe reminded parents about the online homework programme and the move to more extended project work.
- Discussed that it will be possible to complete some of the tasks online and for teachers to mark online but not the only method of completing the work.
- Computer access for all students was discussed and parents were assured that all students will be able to access computers in school if they don't have access at home.
- ADe then advised that assessment will also be a big focus during the next school year. The school will be looking at internal assessment and making improvements to the current system.

AOB:

- Reporting was raised by a parent who felt that Year 11 reports showed real knowledge of the students and felt more personal.
- The new school planners and improved literacy provision was also discussed.
- The online revision activities were also mentioned and parents said that these were very helpful this year.
- Discussed the step up from Y11 to Y12 and difficulties involved. ADe mentioned that a new learning mentor has been employed along with a mental health specialist and a member of staff focussing on stretch and challenge including preparation for Oxbridge. Parents commented that this was good to hear the despite financially stretched times it is clear that school is prioritising student wellbeing.
- Communications were raised by one parent. The protest day letter was praised as it provided a good balance of safeguarding and also allowing students to get involved if they wished.
- The letter about Y11 collapsed timetable however was raised as an issue for parents trying to make arrangements between the Friday receiving the letter and the Monday when it came into action. For example students who live in remote villages with no other option than the school bus didn't seem to be considered.
- ADe mentioned that a supervised room at school for them to study in could be made available next year.
- Discussion of bus services and promotion of the X12 service for under 18s.
- Discussion of sports and a parent raised that there is not enough communication when a sports event is arranged and the PE blog is not up to date. It would help to have events advertised there to help parents plan.

