

### **Introductions and Welcome**

Parents were welcomed by Alessandra Desbottes (ADe), Deputy Headteacher and Carla Blaney (CBI) who introduced herself as the new Development Co-ordinator for Community Voice. ADe expressed that we were very pleased to be able to invite parents back to these meetings following the restrictions of the pandemic. There has been a need to reinstate our normal ways of working since the Covid outbreak began when we had to respond very quickly to a changing situation. However, recent surveys to parents, staff and pupils have identified both communication and wellbeing as key areas for improvement which we are keen to have parental input on.

### **Impact of Covid 19**

There was a discussion of the impact of Covid on children as learners and how they participate at school. Parents contributed that there has been an impact on pupils' concentration, their attitudes/behaviours, their desire to learn and their willingness to participate in extra-curricular activities. ADe responded with some of the things we are doing to support pupils: we have introduced National Tutoring programme for Year 8 who have been identified as the year group requiring most support. In the next academic year, Year 7 will have one period a week dedicated to PSHE including work on wellbeing, mindfulness and independent learning. These themes will also be worked on by the other year groups during afternoon form times. The school is also working on trying to ensure that every child attends at least one extra-curricular club. There was also discussion on how to use our existing structures such as Head Boys and Girls, Peer Mentors, Sports Ambassadors and Senior Students to help make pupils feel more included in the life of the school. The school will also work on an anti-racism project, which would focus on this area of discrimination and use of language. The school also intends to further promote positive behaviour in and outside the classroom.

### **Homework**

Homework was a point of discussion. Parents feel there is some inconsistency with homework. Issues included homework being set on Teams, formatting, and regularity of homework. It was explained that different departments set homework based on their curriculum needs e.g. Maths set very regular homework pieces whereas History set extended projects to be completed over 4-weeks. This could

account for the feeling of irregularity. The school is returning to students planners to allow recording of homework, but teachers will still be required to set homework in the same way on Teams.

## **Communication**

Regarding communication as a key component of the School Improvement Plan, parents felt there were a number of positives about the way school communicates with them but there could be improvements. For example, the website could be reviewed to see if the most relevant information for parents is easy to find. There could be more text reminders which include things like 'The extra-curricular program on the website has been updated', reminders about early finishes communicated the night before, if our term dates are different to County, again for this to be texted as a reminder after holidays. Parents were pleased to hear that they will soon be able to access Edulink which will give them access to more information. Furthermore, new email addresses are being introduced which will allow parents a more specific way to contact a particular department rather than the generic UVHS address – this was welcomed by parents.

## **Wellbeing**

Wellbeing is another school priority. Parents were pleased that this was being done and requested that physical wellbeing should be as important wellbeing. This will be raised this with Senior Leadership Team, and Amy Bird, Head of PE, will attend the next meeting to discuss our current provision of PE.

## **AOB**

Other issues raised were:

How will the council re-organisation next May affect the school?

What plans do we currently have in place in relation to becoming part of a Multi-Academy Trust, including funding? Has the school approached local businesses in this respect?

How exactly will Edulink be used for notifications?

These issues will be further discussed at the next meeting