

## Notes from Parent Forum 2 – December 2019

### **Introduction**

Parents and staff introduced themselves. Attendance was: Year 7 - 4 parents, Year 8 – 6 parents, Year 9 - 2 parents, Year 10 – 1 parent, Year 11- 1 parent, and Kate Richards, Julia Hinchliffe and Mat Grafton as staff members.

### **Feedback from Parent Forum 1:**

Trips will be expanded and there are already plans in place for a whole year group trip for Year 7 and for Year 8. Kate Richards is leading on this directly, liaising with teachers.

Sports fixtures lists were shared.

Feedback on the lunches and queues was provided.

Request from parents:

- a) Can there be an alert if lunch money dips below a threshold? Is there a way to set a spending cap at break time?
- b) Free School Meals – could a separate email go out to everyone which includes a form? On the email indicate it's more than just the meal – explain what else it can mean e.g. reduction on cost of trips, reduced/free resources, possible extra mentoring etc.

Communication – for detention emails is now much improved, with the explanation of why the child received the detention being sent. Parents would like texts as early as possible, the earlier the better please.

Emails – We are checking all parent's emails at each Parents Evening and this has already improved the numbers receiving emails. We will continue to do this.

Year 11 Prep concern. Confirmation that Year 11s have time between 2.50 and 3pm to eat, drink, go to toilet.

### **Topics discussed:**

#### **[1. Online resources \(Mat Grafton\)](#)**

##### **Google classroom:**

Classrooms was introduced to parents. Many teachers put all their homework on Google classroom, but this is not a requirement as students have planners. Some students go directly to the platform as this is quicker.

##### **Seneca:**

There are many different courses available. Students are set assignments and teachers can track how well they answered. The questions are intuitive, so if students make a mistake, the question comes back to them in a different format until they get it right.

##### **Quizlet:**

Good for key words, flashcards. There are opportunities to hear the key words, and also games (eg asteroids) where students have to work quickly and competitively.

### **Hegarty Maths:**

Comprehensive videos and practice questions.

### **Educake:**

Used in English mainly, and is popular with students.

The planners are used as the main way to inform students about homework. As always a reminder that if there are any concerns, email the teacher/tutor.

Questions parents asked:

- Parents commented that the online platforms are helpful and students are engaging well.
- Are there any notifications when homework is set on Google classroom? Not necessarily. If the teacher doesn't set it as an "assignment" with a deadline, then there is no notification.

## **2. Home Learning**

Parents were asked about any comments on homework. The general consensus was that this year the quantity of homework feels about right.

Year 7 had been overwhelmed by homework last year, and some found the change this year really difficult to manage too. Parents were stepping in to help their child get organised. The longer projects, especially in Geography had disappeared, which was welcomed by parents as they had found these the hardest to plan around. The overall sense was homework was more evenly spread out across the week now.

Parents raised a concern that some students felt fearful of getting a detention and that this isn't good for their mental health, especially for younger students. The discussion included whether there was a way to use the detention system for some who need it but not others; whether the younger students could have a gentler introduction to the detention system; how the school introduces detentions to younger students so they know not to worry and that if there is a genuine reason for not completing homework they can email their tutor in advance.

## **3. Fundraising**

The plan is to consider fundraising in more detail at next Parent Forum. Early ideas to investigate in advance include:

- Setting up a Just Giving page for "Curriculum Enhancement"
- Cake sales
- Advertising to parents that they can bring in old uniform that the school can share with other students
- Amazon Smile
- Easy Fundraising
- Direct debits
- Rounding up amount on Parent Pay
- Recipe Book which recipes shared by parents
- Bake-off, dance-athon, splat the teacher/older brother, talent show

A huge thank you to the Hospitality and Catering students who produced wonderful food for the event.