



## Parent Council Minutes – 8 March 2018

### Parent Council attendees:

Mrs Kerry Gaulton	Mrs Anne Humersone
Mrs Katie Horwood	Mrs Katherine Howe
Mrs Georgina Law	Mr Tony Tyler
Mr Andrew Wach	Mrs Alison Franklin (apologies received)
Mrs Louise Bell	Miss Samantha Ramsey
Mrs Vicky Sweeney	Mrs Louise Clark
Mrs Sarah Davidson	Mrs Samantha Payne
Miss Hilary Scotcher	Mrs Lisa Watkins
Mrs Debra Price	Mrs Sarah Foxall (apologies received)
Mrs Melanie Sloan (apologies received)	

### Staff in attendance

Dr Chris Ingate  
Mrs Kate Byers  
Mrs Julie Goodeve

### Governors in attendance

Mr Andrew Sherriff

### Introductions

- Dr Ingate welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting.
- No questions were raised from the minutes of the meeting 2/11/2017.

### Department of Education Standards/Performance Table

Feedback from parents at last meeting asked for further information on the new grading / point system.

- For this academic year 2017/2018 all subjects will move from grades A-E to 1-9 point system, except for Media, RM and Textiles.
- The KS2 data that we receive from the DfE is measured against the amount of progress a student has made at the end of KS4.
- Last year Birchwood sat at +0.07 which is in the middle and this year we are looking to improve. However with the new specifications in subjects and less coursework it is difficult to judge. There is also the problem of fewer past papers to practice with.
- It is difficult for Birchwood to achieve a higher score due to the broader curriculum we offer at Birchwood to be inclusive for our students, ie. offering GCSE subject such as media and PE.
- For our Sixth form we are well placed and the A-levels are still using the Grade system A-E. Value Added Score +0.15 (Top 15% of Sixth Forms)

### Home Learning update

- Both Bedrock and MyMaths have been received well and the initial glitches are being ironed out.
- Lisa Watkins suggested simplifying the logging in to Bedrock and MyMaths by using a portal to log in to both applications with one password to stop delay tactics by students who have forgotten their passwords.
- Year 11 – revision is sparse, and setting of home learning.
- All agreed that the GCSE pod is very good.
- Other subject home learning is erratic.
- Some concerns in Year 7 and 8 about quality and quantity.
- Other parents felt it worked and forced students to do some homework and is differentiated to their level / needs.

### Bedrock

- Bedrock you can only use 7 – 8 times every 24 hours. Who is monitoring it? Difficulty not increased.
- Evidence that Bedrock increases students' vocabulary and has shown improvement in written work over other subjects.
- Dr Ingate to follow up on compliancy and completion of Bedrock tasks.
- Concerns from parents regarding transferring learnings through Bedrock to actual written work.
- Still early days but variety needs to be added to English Home Learning.

### MyMaths

- Students can choose what topic they want to.
- No structure.

### Rewards and Behaviour management

#### Vivos

- Some students do not have a log-in for Vivo, parents too.
- Operational issue – Dr Ingate to inform Mr Noblett.
- Inconsistency of allocation from different staff.
- Personalised postcard in the post is a tangible reward.
- Recent Year 10 celebration event in the Sixth form centre was very well received and meant a lot to the students.
- Year 7 and 8 best form at end of school year received positive feedback.
- Email from teachers/tutors informing parents of praise / well done also well received by both parent and child.
- Diversity of rewards is important.

### Behaviour – C chart system

Helped with low level disruption – students are very clear about consequences.

### **Role of being a Governor – Mr Andrew Sherriff**

Seen as a director of a company – school.

Check and balance the Senior Leadership Team.

Support and scrutiny.

### Personal reasons for becoming a Governor

Quiet patch and work and personal development.

Giving something back to the school/community.

### Role responsibilities

Time – 2 hour sessions x4 per year.

Annual Full Governors meeting

Committee meetings:- Steering, Finance, Personnel, Estate

Permanent Exclusion hearings

Post Ofsted meetings

Training.

Open evenings.

### Skills required

Time – commitment

Enquiring mind, ability to ask questions.

60 hours approximately a year, plus reading and preparation time.

Responsible for whole school not just one or two students.

### How to become a Governor

Nomination form

Ballot – voted by peers.

### **PSFA Discussion – Mrs Kate Byers and Mrs Julie Goodeve**

- Launch of Parent, Staff and Friends association – first AGM Thursday 15 March at 6.30pm.
- A letter went out to staff and parents with a Survey Monkey link for people to register interest. To date we have volunteers for the committee roles of Chair and Secretary. Twenty people have said they will be attending the AGM and we are hoping the 'bank' of committed helpers will grow with time. Looking for a Treasurer, if anybody knows of anyone who may be interested in the role, please mention it to them.
- Logo created, PSFA page on the school website up and running, insurance organised, bank account opened. Will look into setting up a PSFA Facebook page. Once the Committee has been elected, Julie Goodeve will register the PSFA with the Charities Commission and register for Gift Aid.
- It was suggested that Sixth formers could be invited to attend AGM.
- Kate Byers will act as a point of contact at school for communication and to provide support.

### Future plans/ideas

Second hand uniform sale – If enough items donated will organize a sale for Year 6 induction day.

Lots of ideas for events from the Survey Monkey feedback.

Generic email to generate ideas from parents.

Mrs Bell – able to give advice on handbook with top tips.

### Topic planning for next meeting

1. Better planning of the school calendar to ensure Mock Exams are before Parent Evenings, timings of Interims.
2. Accessibility – temporary unplanned disability, ie. broken leg, sprained ankle etc., concern that students miss too many lessons and sit in the library. The schools is reviewing access arrangements around the site for these students.
3. Facilities – hand dryers, paper towels and lockers.
4. Social Media – parental Facebook pages not monitored, continue to educate both parents and students on safe practice. Year 7 Whatsapp group – issue. Dr Ingate
5. Communication – need to market the school more. Share how well we do, celebrate achievements, raising profile.
6. Vaping – observation that many students are openly vaping outside of school, on school buses. No clear solution.
7. Mental health.
8. Thanks to Michael Phillips for organising Year 10 recent celebration event – excellent idea to be held in the Vith form centre and well received by students. Also thanks to Mr Morton for organising/leading the recent Bronze DofE course.

### **Next steps**

- Dr. Ingate will email minutes from meeting for parents to add details that may be missed.
- Dr Ingate to produce action plan following outcomes from meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 6 June 6.00 - 7.30pm