



Parent Council Minutes
Wednesday 11th November 2020
6:00-7:15pm. Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Apologies

- Nicollette Drabwell
- Elliott Howe
- Chris Emery
- Vicki Sweeney

Minutes

- Minutes from last meeting – 11.03.2020 agreed

Staff presentations:

- Mr Gilbank, Deputy Principal, joined to discuss interim reports, target settings, current and forecast levels – the KS2-4 target setting process is complex and has been made more so by the change from GCSE Grades to numerical levels which has affected algorithms and slightly ‘depressed’ summative targets. There has been a changing culture at Birchwood around moving to discussing a students strengths and areas for improvement in lessons and in assessments. This is the most effective way of improving levels. Dr Ingate also added that flexibility would be used in terms of Sixth Form enrolment for 2021 due to the Covid disruption
- Mrs Mackinlay, Student Welfare Officer, joined to discuss the mental health provision within the School. A number of topics were discussed and Parents would be keen for a Workshop on Mental Health next summer.

Feedback regarding communications and actions relating to Covid-19/Roundtable

- Positive feedback from parents across the board but particularly from parents with GCSE and A-level students whose exams were halted in the summer. The school was supportive with lots of staff available on both results days.
- Parents would be interested to see how this year’s results compared to previous years. Dr Ingate said they were around a fifth of a grade up on last year on average – the national picture was similar so students received grades in line with those across the country. There had been rigorous internal moderation to ensure the process was fair and objective.
- Communications during the Lockdown have been very informative and received well.
- Some Individual Subject teaching could have been better in March. Once Staff were trained on Teams and online lessons then things improved. SMHW has worked well throughout.
- The School Council have met and reported that they feel safe and that the measures now in place for Covid-19 remain once things return to normal as they prefer them.
- 6th Form Virtual Open Evening for Year 11 – Launch day is tomorrow, 12th November, and students have assemblies in Periods 2 and 3 also. **Dr Ingate to email Year 11 Parents tomorrow via SchoolComms with reminder of Launch Day**
- Can Spring Term Dates be advertised, especially Year 8 Options Evenings and application dates? **Dr Ingate to action this**
- Year 7 – Parents felt very inclusive from the start. Mr Herbert and Tutors have done a very good job considering the disruption in Year 6. The Welcome Letter, Tutor Videos and the work set for students over the summer were very good.

- Revision Classes for Year 11 – Maths has worked well, English and Science Classes will be added next week. We could do with revision classes being advertised coherently for Year 11 and 13 – **Dr Ingate to discuss with SLT and action**

Items from the Chair including PSFA update

- Well done to everyone for using Teams
- Bonus Ball monthly prize draw currently £102. Christmas Wreath Making Workshop with Wendy Gordon from Well Bean Gardening is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9th December.
- Recruitment – Spaces in all years except Year 8. Advertise on Social Media and current Parent Council to contacts – any interest to Katie Horwood.

Date of next meeting – 10th March 6-7:15pm via Teams or actual meeting depending on Covid-19 situation

Parent Council Members 2020-21

Chair: Katie Horwood

	Parent 1	Parent 2	Parent 3	Parent 4
Year 7	Chris Emery Abs	Charlotte Sams	Louise Gray	
Year 8	Tracy Baros	Elliot Howe Abs	Michelle Gowlett	Pam Harknett
Year 9	Nicollette Drabwell Apologies	Alison Reader	Kerry Gaulton (+11)	
Year 10	Samantha Ramsey	Sarah Poole (+13)		
Year 11	Anne Hummersone	Catherine Rees		
Year 12	Debra Price	Vicki Sweeney (+13)	Sarah Foxall	
Year 13	Sarah Davidson	Samantha Payne		