



Parent Council Minutes

Tuesday 20th April 2021

6:00-7:15pm. Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Apologies

- Vicki Sweeney – technical difficulties
- Sarah Poole – technical difficulties
- Charlotte Sams
- Michelle Gowlett

Minutes

- Minutes from last meeting – 11.11.2020 agreed
- Remote Learning Review/Return to School Feedback
 - Seamless transition from remote learning back to the classroom
 - Students have learnt independent learning skills much earlier.
 - Staff are pleased to be back.
 - 96% attendance and excellent behaviour
 - There was a big thank you to Teachers who gave up their time during the Easter Holidays to run revision classes for Year 13
 - All parents felt that there had been fantastic management and communication throughout the Covid pandemic from the school
 - Students found the Teachers being able to mute students on the live lessons meant little to no distractions.
 - Live lessons very good, although a couple of teachers did not do video lessons. CI explained that all staff had received training for this but some did have technical / wifi issues at home
 - Some parents felt that more 1:1 feedback from Teachers was given during Lockdown 1.0. but that the Jan-March lockdown was better structured and lesson quality better
 - Catch up lessons – has the school had time to consider its plans? CI said that the main objective pre-Easter was to get everyone settled back into school and now teachers were assessing students to find out who needs additional support. Once we know this we will publish our plans.
 - CI said that the last year has proven what a great team spirit we have at Birchwood and thanked in particular Heads of Faculty and Heads of Year for really supporting their teams and giving invaluable feedback to SLT
 - It was noted that teachers put effort into Pastoral care and regularly in contact with vulnerable students.
 - CI also added that weekly meetings with Heads from other schools helped create a consistent approach to Covid management across the town
 - School Council would like some routines to stay in place after the pandemic, i.e café system.
 - On-line Parents Evenings – many parents preferred these. Could Parent Workshops be put on next year on-line?
 - SSS – The DfE advised that a mix of live lessons and setting work was the best way forward as students could work at their own pace.
- Managing Lateral Flow Tests and Face Masks
 - Can students have a drink of water if they are in a double lesson?
 - School only needs to be notified of positive result.

- 12,000 lateral flow tests completed, 1 positive.
- School is well stocked of face masks and lateral flow tests.
- Year 11 and Year 13 update
 - 2 assessment windows; class assessments and hall exams
 - Robust system and moderated
 - CAG Policy is currently being drawn up.
 - Parents will be sent information – parents of Year 11/13 said they could do with information explaining the school’s methodology asap.
 - Year 10 and Year 12 – focus on them, catch up lessons and revision classes beginning soon
 - Years 7-9 – Teacher assessments and catch up lessons, i.e., practical.
 - High number of Uni offers given to Year 13 students. Broad grade forecasts were used for UCAS Statement.
 - Transition from Year 11 to Year 12 – why were unconditional offers not given? It was agreed with other schools in the town not to give unconditional offers despite the circumstances as this can demotivate students
 - 6th form Taster Weekend of June / beginning of July - again – can parents have details of this asap.
- Equality at Birchwood: This was a general discussion.
 - Parents felt that the school was strong on equality and had dealt with Racism and LGBT in an open and informative manner.
 - With regards to gender harassment, it was important to teach students respect and consent from an early age.
 - Can materials used in School be shared with Parents so they can understand the context of conversations being had and support conversations at home?
 - Year 11 and Year 13 – very little time spent discussing sexual harassment during PSHE lessons.
 - Some felt that girls too needed advice – eg 6th form girls – skirts too short
 - Relationships and Sex Education – External Speaker visited a couple of years ago to talk to Parents, very informative – Sharon@NaturalFlair - this was really good
 - Student led research into gender harassment underway being led by Sam Stopps and Jolene Jacobson
 - The school is already looking at tightening behavioural system around misogyny and sexual harassment

Items from the Chair including PSFA update

The PSFA are hoping to begin holding events in the not too near distant future. The school is very grateful for the £3000 donated to PLC for PCs to help SEND students access work on-line.

Parent Council Members 2021

Chair: Katie Horwood

	Parent 1	Parent 2	Parent 3	Parent 4
Year 7	Chris Emery	Charlotte Sams	Louise Gray	
Year 8	Tracy Baros	Elliot Howe	Michelle Gowlett	Pam Harknett
Year 9	Nicollette Drabwell	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		