



Parent Council Minutes

Wednesday 30th June 2021

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

Apologies

- Nicollette Drabwell
- Anne Hummersone
- Tony Tyler

Minutes

- **Communications and Actions relating to Covid-19 Feedback**
 - Parents generally very happy with measures being taken by the school
 - Cases remain relatively low at the moment (3 cases – 54 students isolating)
 - CIE met with Julie Marsden MP and other Head Teachers of local schools today.
 - Pressure on Ministers to change isolation rules and introduce vaccinations to vulnerable children in Schools
 - Students can continue to wear masks in School if they want to
 - Twice weekly LFTs do make a difference. **CIE to ask HOY to form tutors to ask them to remind students to continue taking the twice weekly LFT tests**
 - Are there enough tests available to continue testing during the summer holidays? **CIE to check stock levels, but there are testing kits available in the Library**
- **Planning for next year**
 - Virtual Parents Evenings – should they remain virtual going forward?
 - Positive feedback on virtual parents evenings – majority preferred these – better timings and privacy
 - Could the time limit be changed to longer for Sixth Form students
 - Limited to number of teachers you could request an appointment with – could this be changed? Especially in Year 8 when choosing Options
 - Perhaps Years 7 and 8 could have in person meetings to give a better feel of the school with older year groups having more on-line parents evenings
 - Students with additional requirements to have in person meetings or longer virtual meetings
 - A support contact number for parents having difficulties with Teams would be useful
 - Parents keen to see workshops on eSafety / Equalities issues
- **Update on Equalities Education**
 - 12 month commitment drive on racism, homophobia and gender equality
 - Parents pleased with the actions being taken by the school and acknowledge the lockdown inhibited ability to educate students about these issues
 - Students are now having assemblies and lessons in PSHE
 - Student Steering Group feel issues arise at cultural level – can students be taught the correct terminology?
 - Parents keen on idea of Parental Workshops (see above)
- **Roundtable** – topics Parent Council wish to raise for discussion or future meetings
 - 210 parents completed recent Survey Monkey – more details will be given in Birchwood News, overall 80-85% are happy with the School – Parent Council members generally very pleased with how the school has managed the last 18months.

- Lockers – could some be made available for children who need them – most are fine but those with physical difficulties or SEND would benefit **CIE to speak to SENCO**
- PE Kits – Mix of views here – Some preferred students continue attending School in their PE Kits on PE Days – others did not due to having to wear sweaty kit all day. **CIE to speak to PE Department, but there is health and safety to consider**

Items from the Chair including PSFA update

- ‘What Makes You Happy’ Photo competition running from 8th July-16th September
- Depending on restrictions, hoping to host a Race Night on 24th September and a Birchwood Beer Festival in October.
- PSFA are providing all students with ice pops on Sports Day
- Donated £4,500 to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) enabling a purchase of a VEX IQ Robot Kit. New intake of Year 7s will be the first to use the equipment during the Summer Holiday Transition Days. CIE thanked PSFA for all their hard work – it makes a big difference
- Pre-owned Uniform – donations welcome to the school

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		