



Parent Council Minutes

Tuesday 1st November 2022

6:00-7:15pm. BDC

Minutes

- **Apologies**

Anne Hummersone Charlotte Sams

- **Minutes from last meeting**

- Homework quantity for Years 7 and 8 has improved.
- My Maths – This needs clarifying as students still being told it is not compulsory

- **Update on feedback and key messages from July Survey Monkey**

- 279 responses out of a possible 1430. Generally very positive
- Useful presentation on reporting by CGK last term
- Website is updated in the summer to include information on curriculum plans – is this up to date?
 - Send reminder email to parents to look on website for information
 - Include information in the Year 7 Induction Pack
 - Would be useful if textbook information was given so parents could purchase copies if required
- Survey results comparable to survey completed as we were coming out of lockdown
- Could a N/A be added to the bullying question?

- **Racism at Birchwood**

- Discussion about racism, diversity and inclusion. There have been 3 racist incidents since September and these have been dealt with immediately.
- 'Emo' – modern version of 'Goth', not just aimed to children of colour
- Student awareness to be improved through PSHCE and Guest Speakers
- Improve Teacher awareness?
- Could there be a Minority Group?
- Could there be a section on the website? With links to speakers?
- Guardian article – <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/04/black-students-teachers-implicit-racial-bias-preschool-study>
- Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race – Book by Reni Eddo-Lodge

- **Roundtable** – topics Parent Council wish to raise for discussion or future meetings

Year 7

- Communication on managing homework to be sent
- Lockers – they take up too much space. Sport kits (such as cricket bags) can be left in Sports Office. Food technology ingredients can be taken to Class room at start of school day
- PE – How are parents informed about fixtures? Could more notice be given?
- Vaping – Concerns about seeing Year 10 girls vape in the toilets – B Block
- Communication has been patchy; everything has been sent too late. Can important things be added to Induction Pack (ParentPay log in etc)
- Items are being put on ParentPay before communication is sent out
- Canteen – Pricing is not clear on how much items are.
- Mobile Phone Policy – does the school have one? Some teachers are asking students to use phones in the classroom (eg MFL)

Year 8

- Homework – Maths and Art are marked. Other subjects are not
- Emails – Could text be included in the body of email as well as attachment?
- Food Technology – Could contributions be made instead of each child bringing in ingredients? Lessons not long enough to weigh out ingredients and cook recipe so would not work
- PE Kit – Can they change into uniform if PE Kit gets wet on days when they come to school wearing PE kit? Yes they can
- School books – New school books have been given for subjects, seems wasteful. Can they keep same books? Years 9-11 do.

Year 9

- No residential trips due to lockdown – can one be planned for the summer?

Year 11

- Information Evening – not much information given on Year 11, more heavily biased towards 6th Form.

Sixth Form -

- Reduction in Twilights for Year 12 appreciated. Some are still cancelled at last minute
- Communication not great for Year 13
- UCAS Guidance for personal statements needs to be made clearer by some tutors
- EPQ – no predicted grades given – this is affecting Uni Offers
- Homework – Some staff are still using Teams v SMHW. No consistency
- Uniform Clampdown on girls perhaps a little draconian?
- Seem to issue Behaviour Points but not Achievement Points

All

- Open Evening was fantastic
- Punctuality clampdown good but some late students on buses being marked as late
- Non-Uniform Day – Can there be some non-uniform days alongside colour themes? Students not happy about single colour theme.
- Arbor – House points and rewards not being used by many staff. ITE/ACR need to work on new Rewards Profile for January
- Trips – Can these be published on the website or HoYs inform Parents?
- After School Clubs – How are children being registered / safeguarded?

- **Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 28th March 2023**

Parent Council Members – Autumn 2022

Chair: Katie Horwood

	Parent 1	Parent 2	Parent 3	Parent 4
Year 7	Lisa Rodmell	Anita Stannard		
Year 8	Flora Klumper	Annika Evans		
Year 9	Charlotte Sams	Michelle Jones Boswell	Louise Cutmore	
Year 10	Tracy Baros	Michelle Gowlett	Pam Harknett	Helene Petterson
Year 11	Alison Reader	Kerry Gaulton		
Year 12	Sarah Poole	Sarah Ficken		
Year 13	Anne Hummersone	Tony Tyler	Alison Thomson	