

Hillsvie Academy Parents Forum Meeting

15th September

Present;

Claire Massey

Claire Heath

Tracy O'Donnell

Ruth McWilliams

Emma Colbeck

Liz Foster

Paul Julian

Transition week for year 7 students was discussed. A member of the forum has a child who attended the extended transition in July. Feedback was very positive the only negative being a lack of a final day at primary with peers as students were all attending various school transition days.

The length of summer holidays was mentioned with the pros and cons of being off discussed.

The change of structure to the school's year group tutor groups has been very favourable. All parent forum members felt that this had been favourable.

Homework was discussed as a lack of homework was mentioned at the last meeting and inconsistencies in the homework grades on reports. Mr Julian explained that homework can be a problem for some of our students due to lack of internet, appropriate facilities and parental support at home. He also stated that the new reports will address the inconsistencies in grading. Reports are expected before the end of term in the new format.

Parents of older children are concerned about the new grading system for GCSE'S that has come in this year. The changes have proven confusing for children and teachers. Parents of year 11 students would like an information evening to discuss the new grading format, exam marking system, expectations and clarity on how to provide support at home during the student's final year. It is requested that this meeting takes place as soon as possible. Mr Julian is to

arrange this. Mr Julian also advised that he will put revision powerpoints onto the website for parents to access.

A number of staff changes over the summer have occurred especially in the Maths department. This should hopefully improve the standard and quality of teaching and learning. The staff absence system has also changed this year and has already shown a drop in staff absence.

A new base target system for each pupil has also been introduced from KS2 through to KS4. This will be a number base3 target which is the minimum expected for students across subject areas.

We requested at the last meeting a change to the format of parents evening, enabling parents to see subject teachers and not just the form tutor. The school has listened to this and will provide this. The date is to be confirmed.

Clear processes are now in place for discipline in the school. Consistency is evident as an improvement in behaviour has been noted. Year 11 students have access to the 6th form site and each year group have their own "outside/yard" space. This provides stability and is working well.

It was suggested that flyers be made to promote the parents forum and they can be distributed at open evenings/parents evenings. Emma Colbeck has offered to produce these.

School planners are not yet available due to issues with the supplier. This information is to be posted on the school website.

The school counselling programme was discussed following a positive parent experience.

Date of next meeting; Thursday 17th November 6.30 till 8pm

2017 Meetings; Thursday 19th January, Friday 10th March,