

Parents Forum Minutes 16/03/2017

Mr Elliott and Dr. Robinson joined the meeting along with 9 parents/grandparents. TOD started the meeting by requesting that the email for enquiries to the parents group be updated to tracyodonnell06@gmail.com on the website.

The meeting started on a positive note with a year 8 parent praising the positive impact the team of staff have had with year 8 management.

The continuing problem of staff sickness and absence was again discussed with the impact on year 11 students being highlighted at this important time. DE confirmed that short term sickness/absence has improved this term and the school are focusing heavily on year 11 pupils, with tests taking place regularly to identify where they need extra support. This is assessed fortnightly by the vice principle.

A new maths teacher has been hired and is already in post.

A pupil was invited to attend a university trip but the offer was then withdrawn as the trip was only for pupil premium students (free school meals). TOD asked if trips could be made available to all pupils paid for by the parents. DE explained that some trips are only available to pupil premium children as disadvantaged children are targeted for the resources. The staff are also frustrated by this.

It was confirmed that the spa trip that was discussed at the last PF meeting is still going ahead. DE is to follow up on the incident regarding the pupil being invited in error.

Mobile use in master class sessions was noted. Pupils and teachers will be reminded that school rules apply.

A parent asked a forum member to check the school's stance on term time holidays. The school do not allow term time holidays but they only prosecute for bad attendance.

The grandparents of a year 9 student highlighted the 3 incidents that occurred in a week in the playground. 3 students received hospital treatment for cut heads after having items thrown in the playground. 2 of the incidents involved the weights from the blinds in classrooms being removed and thrown. These weights are now being glued into the blinds. TOD said that many year 9 students were worried. Mr Elliott said that more lunchtime extracurricular activities were being planned and a safeguarding visit was taking place next week to assess the processes in school. There is also a problem with people causing trouble on the REC path, the school are working with local police to ensure a police presence on the path at specific times of the day.

A year 9 student who is bilingual is no longer being given extracurricular lessons. The parents/carers are to take this up with the school as GCSE Spanish exams can be arranged.

The new vice principle Dr Robinson attended the meeting. He talked about his role in staff development, a redrafted academy development plan, action plans for heads of year and as a science teacher, focus on science performance.

Year 10 students have focused on work skills and mock interviews this term and external employers have sat in on classes. The employers have discussed punctuality and attitude with students and chosen pupils who they would employ and given reasons why. This was rolled into International Women's Day with students given the opportunity to shadow some of the top most powerful women in Redcar and Cleveland. The feedback from both events was highly positive.

The principles award for work has been introduced, selected students are given a golden ticket and spend time with the principle and are able to be a student voice.

A Department of education visit took place in February and the outcome was favourable. Action points included submitting data more quickly and keeping positive, keep doing what is being done.

The community perception of the school is still low, school continues to work hard to improve this.

The school is trying to obtain funding for technology devices for students to help with learning. All parents in the meeting agreed that this is the way forward and a good idea.

The new format of the GCSE exams was discussed along with the recent mock exams that were designed to highlight gaps in learning. The bespoke timetables for year 11 students have been positively received.

The general feeling around the school is one of improvement. There is a new referral room, student managers and all "out and about" senior staff are being more proactive.

The exclusion rate is down since the last meeting.

The next Parents forum meeting will be on 18th May , 6pm till 7.30