

**Abbey College, Ramsey - Parent Forum**  
**Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 5pm**

**1. Welcome**

All were welcomed. The following were present:

A Christoforou (ACH) – Headteacher  
C Greyson (CG) – Chair  
S Noble (SN) – Assistant Headteacher  
G Craig (GC) - Assistant Headteacher  
Janet Oswell (JO) - Assistant Headteacher  
Karen Glen (KG) – Y11 RSL  
K Dodsley (KD) – Clerk  
N Halliday  
S Crago  
K Smith

**2. Minutes from the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The minutes from the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were agreed.

Matters arising

- a) Q - Have staff been reminded that students can use the closest toilets during lesson change over? SN responded that staff have been reminded and students have had reminders about the correct etiquette. There will be ongoing reminders.
- b) Q – Has there been any work on bathroom privacy with respect to periods? SN noted that she will look at the period friendly charter and there will be reset assemblies after Easter so that all know where products are available.

Item 6 was discussed first.

**3. School Trip funding**

G Craig noted that she holds the Pupil Premium budget to ensure that no student misses out on trips because of financial constraints. There are different levels of funding depending on how crucial a visit is to a course. Departments can allocate some of their own budget and for cultural capital trips a percentage can be covered. For trips such as for CCF, the CCF organisation subsidise the trip and Pupil Premium students may have the remaining costs covered.

Q – why are there such contrasting costs such as the expensive sport related trips and CCF which is cheap? ACH noted that the government heavily subsidised CCF, including associated trips, to have it introduced at state schools. The programme has been good for the school, but funding does not continue indefinitely, expiring next year. A parent noted that it is a fantastic option choice which helps with qualifications and next steps.

**4. Y11: Including Purple Ties, Prom passport, Interact**

KG gave an overview of Y11 processes.

Q – is the Aiming for Purple programme irrelevant if a student receives their Purple Tie at the end of Y10 as there is no incentive? KG noted that there are incentives to continue as there are other rewards on offer, such as for achieving the most Purples over the year and for attending Interacts. Other incentives will be reviewed.

Q – achieving Purples by going to Interact is unfair on those who cannot go to Interact, the late bus takes an hour and some students have other commitments with extra curricular activities. KG noted that there are Interact sessions offered at lunchtimes and there are other sessions classed as Interacts. **Action:** KG to add this information to the Y11 newsletter.

Q – are there other ways to earn Purples other than at after school clubs? KG noted that students tell her when they do things such as voluntary work and this also earns Purples. The school wants the Purple Tie to be about ethos and being a member of community rather than totally academic and outside activities could be added to the list. KG also works with the Attendance Officer and if a student cannot attend they are not penalised. How to achieve a Purple Tie is continually reviewed and a 'Purple Plus' may be introduced in the future. There is prestige to achieving a Purple Tie and it can be removed. KG is always willing to receive feedback on the Purple Ties and amend the scheme.

Q – why do the late buses take so long as it is a big factor for students with other commitments? ACH noted that the school has been lobbying the bus companies and LA but they are combining routes to maximise profits. This school is not as impacted as others, but it is an ongoing issue. The school pays for the late bus which restricts spreading out the Interact sessions over the week.

Q – is there a connection between Prefects and Purple Ties? Y10 Prefects are recognised in Y11. Prefects do things such as attend Y7 assemblies for student voice. They will also decide rewards and incentives and organise celebration events. Being a Prefect supports the application for Purples.

A parent asked that Y11s are not given access to the Sixth Form as a reward, as it makes the Sixth Form less prestigious. ACH noted that access to the Sixth Form may be used to support transition as a part of the bridging course after Y13s have left.

Prom passport – this is not a new initiative and there has been a criteria to meet for many years. This year there is a booklet containing the criteria, but not all criteria has to be achieved. The criteria is inclusive for all, with six stamps a week needing to be signed off by a teacher to receive a £5 discount on the ticket.

Q – there is no difference between this and the Aim for Purple and the discount is an incentive for parents not students. ACH noted that most students meet the criteria with no problem, but the scheme is an incentive to those needing extra encouragement. Other schools are more stringent and don't give a discount. It is a good thing that young people need to know they can help their parents with costs.

A parent noted that the cost of dresses along with accessories could be a barrier to some attending the Prom. KG noted that it is the students who want the prom. It is a lot of work for staff but they do it for the students.

## **5. Sport Fixture arrangements**

B Pugh sent a response prior to the meeting: The PE department has been trialling the use of Teams to send information on fixtures to students with the girls teams and it has worked well. This will be rolled out to other sports teams after Easter. A group chat is set up on Teams for the students involved, with clear details of the fixture date and departure and return times if it is an away fixture. This should mean that parents are able to see all details for fixtures.

## **6. Student feedback form**

JO showed a feedback form and described what students do. This gives students a checklist of what they need to do before completing their GCSEs. The form is personalised by the students and is an aid for them. Boys are engaged with it and all students have completed a form. Q – is the idea that it is revision for the Easter break or the start of ongoing revision that will be updated. It was discussed that there are subject revision lists and this is a personalised list for individuals to focus, summarise and help. It is from feedback from trials and won't be continuous.

ACH noted that feedback from a parent survey raised about the usefulness of the progress checks and these feedback forms are a pilot scheme to support progress checks. The usefulness of them will be reviewed and the process amended if necessary. Parents agreed that it is a good idea for parents and students to receive more feedback other than just a number. It is a useful aid alongside the

revision lists which are useful and include all students. The school didn't want a passive report and engaging the students in the process is better. Q – is the feedback form sent home? Y11s will probably take it home but it could be posted home in younger years if it is cascaded to other years. Q - parents want to see student progress and next steps to be able to support their child, but they may not bring the report home and show parents. ACH noted that this is a quality assurance process and parents will sign to say they have seen the report. Parents were asked if they would prefer the reports to be posted home or sent home with the students for signing. Q – is it possible to add the reports to Edulink as posting is expensive and a piece of paper can get lost? It was discussed that parents could be notified when the report is coming home so they know to ask for it. There will always be non engaging families, but the school can continue to try and reach these through different mechanisms so that they know they need to review and sign the forms.

*JO left the meeting at 5.25pm.*

**7. Fundraising and Finance Update**

**8. Items for the next agenda**

Punctuality and lateness

Bus supervision

OOP clubs

Canteen price cap - Q – will the maximum spend in the canteen change from £5? ACH has asked providers and they will send out a communication. **Action:** C Berry to come to the next meeting to explain the limit.

One drive for coursework based subjects - Q - why is One drive not available at home so that students can continue the work they started during the day at home? **Action:** B Pugh to explain at the next meeting.

**9. AOB**

Money has been raised for the mindfulness meadow and it will be started. There has been a request to parents for garden donations.

**10. Date of the Next Meeting**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 5pm

The meeting closed at 6.10pm