

Abbey College, Ramsey - Parent Forum
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 27th June 2023, 5pm

1. Welcome

All were welcomed. The following were present:

C Greyson (CG) – Chair

S Noble (SN) – Assistant Headteacher

K Wibberley (KW) – Acting Deputy Headteacher

K Dodsley (KD) – Clerk

K Kamau

C Lilley

S Whalley

2. Minutes from the meeting on 13th March 2023

The minutes from the meeting on 13th March 2023 were agreed.

Matters arising

- Canteen price cap - Q – will the maximum spend in the canteen change from £5? This was changed to £7 on 1st May with the option for parents to request an alternative amount.
- 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? Students do have access to One Drive at home and staff have been asked to give students a step by step guide on how to access One Drive. Any queries should be submitted to the IT help desk.
- OOP clubs update – Next academic year's plans for enrichment will be provided at a meeting in the Autumn term. They are on the Edulink app.

3. Punctuality and lateness – Sarah Noble

Students arriving late to lessons is very disruptive to learning for an individual and a whole class and therefore a Tell was changed to an immediate sanction (afterschool detention). The school is spread across a large site and were some worries about being late if students are not fast walkers or were let out from a previous lesson late. The rule is if a student gets to a line up after the teacher has put their hand up then they are sanctioned. Students are asked why they are late and if it is justified they do not get a sanction. Most students walk well between sites and there are 2 or 3 sanctions a day, which is fewer than when Tells were used. It has been a positive move and it is less disruptive for all. Q – when new students arrive are they managed differently whilst they are getting used to the school? Yes, it is anticipated that students will get lost and there are no sanctions for the first few weeks. Sometimes a text is sent home to say their child would have received a sanction, in the hope that this prompts conversations at home.

Q – when were the changes implemented? It was in the Spring term when the site expanded.

Q – It is not clearly laid out in a document what Tells and detentions are given for, could the policy be updated to include a list? SN is working on a document for September and will send this to the parent who raised the concern to review from a parents perspective. It was discussed that a printable infographic might be useful. It was also noted that a text home when an important change is being made is useful as the parent update is not always read.

4. Bus supervision – Sarah Noble

Buses are tricky and difficult to supervise. There are staff at the bus turnaround and they check students are settled before the bus leaves. Students are generally good at reporting issues and any reports are investigated and sanctions given in school. The school communicates with bus companies who can issue warning letters and can issue a ban. Staff cannot go on the bus and it is hard to ask

students to supervise and report issues, although some do. The school wants buses to be calm and safe and asked for suggestions.

Q – are there bus prefects? This has been tried but students do not want to do it. There are some students who will give SN regular updates.

Q – could there be anonymous feedback or poll/survey. This is an option and the school will continue to explore options.

Q - Was this one of the questions on the student questionnaire? No, but this could be added to the end of year survey.

Q – Late buses – Why does the late bus on Monday take so long, arriving back after 5.30pm instead of 5pm as on other nights? The school has to pay for late buses. Historically, the late bus was only on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays which was restrictive for clubs and detentions so Mondays and Fridays were added, but it is more cost effective to pay for one bus rather than 2. It was noted that some Y7s feel intimidated and a longer journey makes this worse. **Action:** SN to consider how to address this. **Action:** Clerk to add to September agenda. Q – do detentions need to be everyday? Yes as they are an immediate sanction. The amount of detentions increased when not doing homework became a detention, but numbers are decreasing as students learn. Q – could the school consider homework being completed in form time to reduce detentions and issues in other areas, such as after school detentions. There are spaces and times made available for students to complete homework.

5. Fundraising and Finance Update

The preloved uniform sales have been very successful and another £500 could be donated to the wellbeing garden which is a good space for wellbeing and mental health. ACH has said that there will be a book scheme in September which the Parent's Forum could support, but there should be funds to do both. It was agreed that another £500 would be donated to the wellbeing garden work. Thanks were noted to all for their support and to the parent helpers who help at the sales.

6. Items for the next agenda

- Could open evenings be held in subject areas for better interactions? SN noted that different styles of open evening have been trialled and it is hard to use the whole site as it is so big. Opening more of the site so it is less contained may be considered.
- Sixth form update on changes.
- Y7 general – settling in.
- Update on working with students on politeness. Videos have been made and could be shared.

7. AOB

The following questions were asked via a parent survey:

- Q - Could OOPS be advertised in RSL letters to parents as not everyone likes Apps or checking their phone constantly? J Davey responded that OOPs start in October and RSLs have access so can advertise them.
- Q - Could the school please change PE sock colours to black, navy, grey or white, as well as the long football sock? It's expensive and time-consuming for parents to keep buying more and more items. It was discussed that white socks are used in PE so that it is obvious that students have changed their socks for PE, for hygiene reasons. Uniform is regularly reviewed and SN will talk to Mr Pugh.
- Q - 6th form. There appear to frequently be limited places where 6th form students can study quietly. They lost their space during the GCSEs to the year 11s, and considering the school are keen on students study in school, this makes it difficult for the students. What are the long term plans for protected spaces and places for 6th form to both study quietly as well as study as a group and socialise? S Moore responded that the school trialled letting purple tie students use the 6th Form common areas, but the 6th Form students didn't like it so it will not be done again.

There are now more staff in the 6th Form areas to be able to monitor and keep students quiet. There will be a timetable available of classes that are free to use to study as a group. Over the summer Study 6 is being refurbished and more set up for individual study.

Thanks were noted to parents and staff for their input over the year. It is good to be able to give and get feedback.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

TBC

The meeting closed at 5.36pm