

**Parent's Forum Meeting**  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 5pm via Teams

**1) Welcome**

Present:

Andy Christoforou (ACH) – Head teacher	Deborah Archer (DA)
Cheryl Greyson (CG) – Chair of Parent's Forum	Elif Tatar (ET)
Charlotte Downing (CD) - Governor	Kate Smith (KS)
Cherry Havard – Clerk	Susie Crago (SG)
Sarah Noble (SN) – Assistant Headteacher	
Jessica Davey (JDV) – Assistant Headteacher	

Apologies were received from Caitriona Powell and Georgina Gerrard Cook.

Around the room introductions were made. As this is CG's final meeting as Chair, CD was welcomed and will be Chairing from the next meeting.

**2) Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Sixth Form changes – Students raised concerns over students out of circulation being put at the back of their classes. ACH stated that this should have stopped now.

Library update – funding has been received to start purchasing books. The author of Captain Correlli's Mandolin is visiting the school again and this should go in the newsletter.

**3) Wellbeing Garden**

C Havard shared the information regarding the Wellbeing garden, and ACH shared the pictures and explained it's all been done by the students in their OOP.

**4) Plans for enrichment next year – J Davey**

The school is now offering 27 OOP (Offer and Opportunity) sessions, moving away from just offering sports and arts. There is now a variety of clubs such as coding, crochet and the focus next year will be the community. There are links with the Rotary and Ramsey Rural Museum and Emily Bannister has been in contact to collaborate on the Walled Garden. Ramsey Bowls and Ramsey Golf club are also looking at collaborating and the PE department year 10 boys seem keen and are looking at potentially starting some 9 hole games with local players. It is positive to build relationships with the local community, such as Ramsey Rural Museum, Flag Fen and other local societies.

Thanks were noted to the school and teachers for the OOP opportunities. It is a good way to start new hobbies and stand out.

ACH noted that Ofsted highlighted personal development as an outstanding feature and this includes clubs and activities outside of the school day that students are attending. The Parent's Forum featured heavily due to the parent feedback assisting enrichment.

85% of disadvantaged students access OOPs and students who don't usually have the opportunity can gain experience in new areas. Students also are able to build relationships with staff they wouldn't normally interact with.

## 5) Antibullying Award – S Noble

SAN noted that she is working towards an antibullying award and has surveyed students to ensure the policy is clear and precise. The policy was circulated to the Parent's Forum to review and no comments were received. **Action:** K Dodsley to recirculate the policy.

The survey had some positive feedback compared to national data last year which was low. SAN noted that the school does not want any student to be unkind to anyone. There is a dropbox for students to be able to report bullying and there will be training for prefects next week for additional support to listen students and point them in the right direction. Covid had a knock-on effect and students can struggle to interact with each other.

ACH noted that it can depend on work carried out by primary schools as this year's Year 7s are much more settled than the Year 8s. Teambuilding activities help.

A parent noted that they have a child in Year 8 and there are definitely challenges in that year. It is reassuring that it is recognised by the school and its not just an individual situation.

SAN stated that all years are looked at to see what support is needed. Year 9 had an external company in to assist and this could potentially be looked at for other years. Some years have had additional assemblies.

## 6) Fundraising and Finance Update

SAN - School uniform. Through the shop there have been concerns raised about the quality of the tie clips as the Peterborough shop have changed the material the tie clip is made out of. SAN said she wasn't sure if it was a spate of students breaking them or if it was the actual clip causing an issue, SAN will raise it. CG confirmed that ties still cost the same.

Dates for the Preloved shop for the academic year are all set, apart from year 6 intake event. The shop continues to do well. Many different parents comes to the shop to save money and through concerns for the environment.

CD can see what parents may want to raise money for from the PF.

## 7) AOB

A parent noted that their child still has issues with homework on apps and asked if this can this be explored. There are reservations about more time using screens and reliance on doing a test which you can guess and not using knowledge. As students need to complete written exams, there is concern about handwriting and basic skills that are needed as they get closer to doing exams. There can be parental issue with time management and it would be good to reduce screen time but this is not possible with the amount of work set on apps. There needs to be a balance as some struggle with handwriting. There is also the issue with students needing to write in exams and not having this as a skill as they spend a lot of time on screens. ACH noted that he will do a parent survey on current technology and how to prepare students for the future.

A parent asked where the school stands on AI (Artificial Intelligence) as they are aware an award was given to a pupil for work that was done through AI. ACH noted that T Huggins is an advocate for AI in the school and could do a session on this.

Caitriona to talk to Parent's Forum about the homework policy, expectations and different methods to complete homework.

ACH noted thanks to CG for all she's done for the Parent's Forum, including setting up the uniform shop etc.

CG noted thanks to everyone for her time as Parent's Forum Chair. She has learned a lot about the school and its processes. It is a good way for parents to be involved with their child's secondary school. The Parent's Forum also allows parents to see how much teachers and staff do, which for some, such as those on social media, would be good to see.

**8) Date of the Next Meeting:**  
TBC

The meeting closed at 5.45pm.