

Abbey College, Ramsey - Parent Forum
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 29th April 2021, 4.30pm

1. Welcome

All were welcomed and introduced themselves. The following were present:

Andy Christoforou (ACH) – Headteacher

Sarah Noble (SN) - AHT

Jane Warne (JW) - AHT

Cheryl Greyson (CG) – Chair

Katie Dodsley (KD) – Clerks

Claire Eeley (CE)

Zara Matthews (ZM)

Sarah Whalley (SW)

Amanda Bakewell (AB) - apologies

Catherine Lilley (CL) - apologies

2. Minutes from the meeting on 25th March 2021

The minutes from the meeting on 25th March were agreed.

Matters arising

- a) Payment system – KD noted that the school uses Parent Pay and this can be used for events as the Parent Forum can have its own budget line.
- b) Marketing of laptop offer – CG noted that she has started to look into this. She has joined a governor's network through her work and this is generating ideas.
- c) Test Centre photos were sent to ZM.
- d) A member has raised bullying as an issue and will be covered by SN.
- e) The Ofsted letter and report have been circulated to parents. Congratulations were noted to the school.

3. Equality and how the school implements the policy – S Noble

SN gave an overview. Equality is encouraged as soon as students join the school, it is built into the curriculum, supported by the Behaviour Policy and Faith and Ethics is taught to all students to GCSE level.

Q – How are staff trained about behaviours so that all children are treated equally? Equality is a part of teacher training. All staff work to standards which are applied consistently. There are regular staff updates from SEN about any adjustments needed and if there were reports of students not being treated equally, it would be investigated. **Q** – Students have a perception of different expectations between behaviours of girls and boys. It was discussed that there shouldn't be a difference in how they are treated and perceptions are addressed as a part of SRE (Sex and Relationships) lessons. **Q** – students report more enthusiasm in PE and after school clubs for boys. It was discussed that there are currently no extra curricula sports and expectations around PE and sports will be explored. It is an unusual year because of the pandemic, but if there is demand, other sports can be run.

Q - When will outside after school sports clubs start? There is an inter schools event planned, but as Covid rates are increasing in the East of England, the school wants to be cautious and will review this. The school is working in line with guidance but there may be a slower recovery roadmap than expected. If guidance permits and it feels safe, after school clubs will start.

Q – A supply teacher made racist comments which were reported to a form tutor and was well dealt with by the school. How will the school make sure that it doesn't happen again? There is termly safeguarding training that includes equality. **Q** - There are currently a lot of national sexual violence and harassment issues being reported, what is the school doing to support this? The SRE curriculum has been reviewed and rewritten and students are signposted to places for support. A sixth former is

working with SN to prepare a lesson on harassment. Staff also have to sign off mandatory training to acknowledge policies and the staff code of conduct.

Action: CPD for staff to be brought forward.

Action: School to ask students if sports activities on offer are gender biased.

Action: KD to invite Ben Pugh, Head of PE, to the next meeting.

4. **Parents Evenings 21/22 – J Warne**

JW gave an overview of parents evening and how they have been held during the pandemic. A survey was sent to parents with a majority of positive feedback about on line parents evenings. Those present agreed that it has been positive to have online parents evenings as they are more accessible, but acknowledge that some may prefer face to face meetings.

JW is looking into continuing with the system, reverting to in person meetings or a combination.

5. **Fundraising**

SW, CE and CL have met to discuss fundraising and are aiming to hold an online quiz night and bake off this term. The fundraising team will continue to plan these in liaison with the school.

Second hand uniform – there is a box in reception ready to collect donated items for selling at the Ramsey Indoor Market. CG will arrange collection and delivery. The Indoor Market charge a percentage rather than rent and they man the stall.

6. **Items for the next Agenda**

Sports Equality

7. **AOB**

There were some concerns raised about bullying in Y7. SN noted that there has been a lot of work carried out, especially with the younger years as they have struggled to settle into school life and interact with others during unstructured time due to missing so much time from school because of the pandemic. There are new peer mediators who have been trained to help resolve issues and be role models and this is proving popular and successful. Additional lessons have been introduced about toxic friendships and how to avoid bullying, and students are signposted to where to get support. There have been some students willing to report issues on busses and there is a staff member on one of the busses from today. Student Support have created a log so that issues and individuals can be tracked.

Action: CG to send ACH an update for the newsletter about what bullying is and the difference between bullying and occasional or minor issues.

8. **Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 27th May 2021

The meeting closed at 17.40