

Abbey College, Ramsey - Parent Forum
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 1st July 2021, 4.30pm

1. Welcome

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

Andy Christoforou (ACH) – Headteacher

Jane Warne – (JW)

Carl Deighton – (CD)

Cheryl Greyson (CG) – Chair

Katie Dodsley (KD) – Clerk

Claire Eeley (CE)

Denise Fitzsimons (DF)

Nuala Monks (NM)

Zara Matthews (ZM)

Sarah Whalley (SW)

Catherine Lilley (CL)

2. Minutes from the meeting on 27th May 2021

The minutes from the meeting on 27th May were agreed.

Matters arising

- Jessica Davey has made contact with museum about working on Artsmark.
- A letter about the Duke of Edinburgh camps has been sent to parents.
- A Facebook page has been set up and will be released this week to advertise and promote the Parent's Forum.
- GC looked into 50:50 bucket, it is viable but needs to be carried out at events.

3. Supporting less able students – C Deighton

CD explained the Wave system which is used to support students make as much progress as possible.

Q – How do you know that the right children have been selected, especially those just above the minimum level? Teachers meet regularly to review data and the productivity of students. MESH (Maths, English, Science and Humanities) meetings look at students across subjects as some students will underperform in some subjects but not others. Teachers will discuss how a child is motivated and try and use this across subjects.

Q – what happens if a child does not have a diagnosis but there is an issue? If a parent or teacher feels there is an issue, such as dyslexia, they can contact the SENCO who will arrange for testing. The curriculum needs to be accessible across all subjects and interventions can be put in place.

Q – Do you measure impact? Data and targets are used to determine if an intervention is needed. Assessment objectives are reviewed and focus teaching takes place in the areas a student is behind in. Students are then re-tested to see if there has been any improvement.

Q – it appears that students who have slipped into the bottom set but then perform well and meet targets for that group are not pushed back up or encouraged to be aspirational. It was noted that heads of departments regularly review sets to make sure students are in the right groups and would keep motivating them to progress. **Action: Heads of departments to review if there any children who are sitting in the wrong band or that they are receiving appropriate challenge.**

ACH noted that there are reports sent home and parents evenings for parents to have the opportunity to say their child needs pushing and parents are asked to challenge the school. The schools biggest strength is the middle band as it is the biggest proportion of students and when students leave, the school achieves in the top 5% of national schools for the middle band. The school needs to improve on work with top end boys and low end girls, which is a national pattern.

Q – It seems there is an issue with spaces in classes to enable students to move up when they are able to and this won't enable students to feel like they are achieving, even if they are meeting

targets. ACH noted that the curriculum offered is challenging and offers useable skills across many subjects. The bottom sets have the minimum expectations of a grade 4 but the same material is used in all classes, scaffolding down. The curriculums and learning journeys are available on the school website to show concepts.

4. **Raising Aspirations** – J Warne

The school reviewed the vision and the draft outcome was displayed. As well as the vision to raise aspirations, there is:

- the excellent careers department
- the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) which supports leadership skills and confidence
- the STEM curriculum is offered to KS3 in learning time
- the Stepping Up programme for Y10 to show readiness and aspirations for the final year
- the core provision promotes diversity and links to the Wave system
- the options for this year's year 8s are aligned with the aspirational baccalaureate curriculum, meaning a language, the three sciences and a humanity subject are studied.
- teaching and learning is the main whole school focus next year to provide an aspirational and appropriate curriculum to all and to develop students in a range of disciplines.
- The Summer School will take place in August and this has an exciting, aspirational programme. The Parent's Forum were invited to attend the finale on Friday 13th August.

A member noted that the stepping up programme has been great, encouraging and well received by the students.

Q – how are the aspirations for the students in New Horizons raised? The programme includes all students and any students on an alternative curriculum have equal access to become scholars in the area of their choice.

JW was invited to return to give an overview of the leadership programmes.

5. **Fundraising**

- CG has found a school lottery. It costs £1 a week and there is a weekly school prize and national prize. It is managed by the lottery organisation and governors have approved the scheme, which should be a good fund raiser.
- CG is talking to a local photographer about offering a family photo shoot package at Christmas.
- A cartridge recycling scheme will be set up for students to bring in empty cartridges. The school can make up to £1 a cartridge.
- Plans for the end of term quiz night at the end of term are under way.

6. **Items for the next Agenda**

- Responses from the parent survey were circulated prior to the meeting. There were some themes identified and it was agreed that support for those students without an official diagnosis would be on the next agenda and D Neal would be asked to join to discuss this.
- Fundraising for the year.

7. **AOB**

Thanks were noted to all for their support during the year.

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

The meeting closed at 17.15