

**Abbey College, Ramsey - Parent Forum**  
**Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 4.30pm**

**1. Welcome**

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

Andy Christoforou (ACH) – Headteacher  
Lisa Williamson (LW)– Governor (Chair)  
A Waldron (AW) - AHT and Head of English  
Katie Dodsley (KD) – Clerk  
Eve Kamau (EK)  
Catherine Lilley (CL)  
Zara Matthews (ZM)  
Sarah Whalley (SW)

Apologies were received from C Greyson (Chair) and A Conway.

All were welcomed and introductions were made. LW chaired the meeting in the absence of C Greyson.

**2. Minutes from the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

The minutes from the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February were agreed.

Matters arising – none.

**3. Homework**

A Waldron (AHT for English) has a focus on Y7 and Y8 homework and asked parents present for feedback on the amount and content of homework.

Individual parents present noted:

- a. They are not aware that their child receives much homework and students can struggle to find it on Teams when there is some set. Students are not always told when there is some set on Teams and it can be missed. It is inconsistent and there needs to be clarity.
- b. They find Teams a challenge and cannot see feedback on homework submitted to see if it's challenging enough for their child. Teams doesn't allow access to parents.
- c. They agreed that homework is inconsistent and can't be checked on Teams. If parents could be told what to expect, it would help them to support their child. An hour of homework is enough a day.
- d. They have contacted school about homework as their child receives a minimal amount, less than an hour a week.

**Q** – Do students receive 'super challenges'? This was an old system and it was found that students generally went for the middle level. They now do prior assessment in class and match a challenge to their starting point. This is to try to encourage and develop long term memory and retention as it takes a lot of work to learn how to retain information.

AW explained the plan for homework. There will be changes to Y7 and Y8 so that the task has a purpose related to the lesson, and they will also get immediate feedback.

Tasks will be organised so that there is a calendar to know what category should be completed on what day. Consistency will be addressed so that there is a number of tasks.

Parents present noted that this would be helpful. Children need to know the point of what they are doing so an outcome would be good. Parents also want to know that there is a point to homework and it hasn't been set for the sake of it. Parents like the idea of multiple tasks to develop in a discipline. Parents can feed back if there is not enough or too much homework.

ACH noted that that SIMS parent app could be better but it is well used nationally. The school has been looking at a new package <https://www.edulinkone.com/#!/> which would have everything in one place. All were asked to review the demonstration and feedback at the next meeting.

*Thanks were noted to AW and she left the meeting.*

4. **Sports Academy** – carried forward to the next meeting and all were asked to send any questions to the Clerk.

5. **Fundraising**

CG is looking at getting a new system in place to sell pre loved uniform.

Those present would like to know what funds raised have been spent on and what to focus on next.

**Action:** Clerk to provide funding details for the next meeting.

ACH noted that the school has started to transform the quad, but funding is needed. **Action:** ACH to bring plans to the next meeting.

**Q** - Can the Parent's Forum help fundraise to support implementing new things for the improvement to homework? CL offered to support. ACH will liaise with AW.

It was discussed that lockers might be something to raise funds for. ACH noted that there are lots of requirements to have lockers and demand fluctuates. Students may be surveyed to gauge demand.

6. **Items for the next Agenda**

- a) Sports academy

- b) **Q** – How are students settling into being back at school following the pandemic and what are the impacts of the Ukraine war, is there a higher level of anxiety amongst students? Students are covering the Ukraine war in social studies and form time to help process feelings. There will be PASS survey by students, which is about attitudes and feelings, and S Noble can feedback following this. ACH – staffing has been difficult this week because of Covid. Covid is still around and is causing anxiety issues.

- c) AW to feedback next time on homework progress.

7. **AOB** – none.

8. **Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 4.30pm

The meeting closed at 17.30