

Abbey College, Ramsey - Parent Forum
Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 5th May 2022, 4.30pm

1. Welcome

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

Andy Christoforou (ACH) – Headteacher

Cheryl Greyson (CG) – Chair

Alex Waldron (AW) - Assistant Headteacher and Head of English

Ben Pugh (BP) – PE Lead Learner

Sarah Noble (SN) – Assistant Headteacher

Katie Dodsley (KD) – Clerk

Memet Evren

Alison Gaillard

Natalie Halliday

Eve Kamau

Maria and Steve Urbano

Apologies were received from Z Matthews, A Conway and C Lilley.

All were welcomed and introductions were made.

2. Minutes from the meeting on 24th March 2022

The minutes from the meeting on 24th March 2022 were agreed.

Matters arising – none.

3. Homework - AW

From feedback at the last meeting and from talking to teachers and pupils, the following provisional plan has been devised for KS3 homework:

- 1) each class teacher to set a piece of homework each time they have a class; core subjects will set a piece of homework every week, other subjects will be a piece a fortnight
- 2) homework to be skills themed and a pattern will be seen across the term
- 3) Edulink (<https://www.edulinkone.com/#!/>) to be used by parents and this can help track homework
- 4) Feedback to be provided immediately in lesson. Homework will contribute to the lesson and the teacher will respond then

Q (submitted by a parent prior to the meeting)– If there is a 'Tell' given for poor standard of homework, how does the learner progress without feedback as there is no information on SIMS? The system of 'Tells' won't change but with the new homework system, direct feedback will be received by the student in lesson.

Q – there currently isn't much homework for Y8 and parents have to log in to their child's Teams account to track any given, so the new system sounds positive. Will consideration be given to going from not a lot of homework to receiving regular homework, will students' expectations be managed? AW noted that there will be a period of transition, but the ratios of lessons across a fortnight will spread the work load out.

Q – A parent noted that their child joined the school as a mid-year transfer into Y7 in March and the lack of visibility, reduced amount of homework and expectations compared to the previous school was noticeable. This new plan sounds positive as more visibility is needed.

Q – how will homework be set and handed in, Teams, Edulink or in books? Teams does feed into Edulink so parents will be able to see what is on Teams. How it is handed in will depend on the

homework set, it could be something in their books, but the expectation will be for students to come to lesson prepared to contribute.

Q – will homework be more accessible for all abilities? Yes, and there will be more freedom for students to do it in their own way, to contribute in their own way.

A parent who is also a teacher noted that they think Edulink is a great package and it will be beneficial.

Q – how long should a piece of homework take? AW noted that there will be a limit, but Lead Learners will need to say what is reasonable for their subject. In English, thirty minutes would be reasonable.

Action: Have an Edulink demonstration and the opportunity to ask questions at the next meeting - Janet Oswell

4. **Sports Academy** – Ben Pugh

The current Y8s in the sports academy wear the sports academy kit on PE days. This makes them identifiable and the younger students ask questions and talk about being in the academy next year. Students lead in lessons and coach other students. The students have a badge to wear on their uniform on non PE days so that they are identifiable as leaders to all staff and can be used as such or spoken to if they are not acting as leaders. The academy is working well and the school is in the process of organising a primary school festival, which sports leaders will work on.

After May half term, the academy will be launched to the current Y7s to apply for next year. Students on the programme are studying for a sports leader level one qualification and there is a plan for this to continue into Y9 with the level two qualification. There is also a level three qualification that can be used for UCAS points.

Q – would students be expected to take GCSE PE as well? The academy was introduced as a way to encourage those students who the department felt excelled at PE but did not chose it as a GCSE. There were 100 applicants last year, which was positive.

Q – are there after school sports clubs? There are always as many seasonal sports clubs available as can be staffed. There is currently football, rounders, cricket and tennis that all have teams playing fixtures. **Q** - Is there basketball? Basketball is different to other clubs as it depends on district fixtures and these take place in the autumn term, so there will be an after school club next autumn.

A parent thanked BP and noted that the sports leadership has been amazing for their child and it is good for those students who aren't necessarily academic and have natural sporting flair.

It was discussed that the programme is good for citizenship too, as it trains future leaders, such as referees and it is aspirational for others.

Q – will there be a reminder for parents about the clubs on offer? It was discussed that Covid has made children forget and parents need to know what is available to encourage them. BP noted that the PE department do advertise activities well to students, but do rely on them rather than advertising to parents. BP will try and send out a half termly reminder to families.

ACH noted that it is the school's ambition to provide a challenging curriculum and the point of the sports, STEM and performing arts academies is to complement the challenging curriculum, allowing students to do something they enjoy.

Q – why didn't dance run for GCSE? There were not enough students who chose the subject but it will be substituted in the curriculum. Dance club will also resume shortly.

Q – is there an update on the two female teachers who were going to train in rugby coaching for girls? All girls in 7 and 8 now have rugby lessons but the RFU qualification courses are not running at the moment and so the girls are taught by BP or Mr Mann. They are experienced teachers and the girls like the lessons but it would be good to have female teachers as role models. It is positive that there was a girls rugby club run until Easter by a Y12 student. The girls in the team attended a fixture in Peterborough and won their competitions which is a great achievement for something new and this will be built on next year.

5. PASS Survey and student wellbeing – S Noble

A PowerPoint presentation was shared. SN explained that a lot of time is spent on wellbeing with students and the PASS Survey is carried out which is a nationwide survey of 50 questions. As it is nationwide, results can be compared, giving a realistic picture. There is a survey currently being completed but previous results were shared. The results were positive but it is hoped that results from the current survey will show progress as the school used the previous results to put improvements in place. SN looks at the data for the whole school and year groups to look at making changes on a bigger scale and RSLs and the SEND team will look at individual's results to see what interventions need putting in place.

It was discussed that it is good to see teenagers responding to the questions positively.

6. Fundraising

Funds were spent on a table tennis table and kit and funds now need to be replenished. ACH shared plans for redeveloping some of the outdoor areas. If PF could support, the costs are:

Heavy duty picnic tables - £400 each

Blue wall acrylics x2 - £100 each

Large pot plans x 2 - £100 each

Trees x 2 - £80 each

All agreed that are happy for any funds raised to support the school on developing the outside areas. All were asked to consider supporting with fundraising.

7. Items for the next Agenda

- a) Homework update - AW
- b) Edulink demo – JO
- c) PASS results - SN

8. AOB – none.

- It was discussed that there is a lot of talk of the students needing lockers. ACH noted that there are some lockers in Welfare, but it is prohibitive due to cost and an internal location to put them.
- Thanks were noted to all for attending.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 4.30pm

The meeting closed at 5.30pm