

## **Year 7 Parent Forum - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Present – J Rumble (HOY7), J McAllister (DHOY7), E Spiers (Assistant Headteacher), L Carver (Governor), 12 Parents**

Mr Rumble welcomed the parents to the evening. Numbers are slightly reduced on the last Parent Forum. This may be because invites went out via School Comms instead of paper copy. Physical letters will be given out for the first Parent Forum in Y8

Mr Rumble welcomed to Eugene Spiers and Louise Carver, Governor.

### **Matters arising.**

- The Red Nose Day obstacle course fundraising event raised over total £850.
- Tutorial Programme – Real News vs Fake News was added to the programme for the summer term following feedback at the last forum. This is being planned and delivered by 20 more able students
- Homework feedback was discussed. Mr Rumble and Mr McAllister have been tracking homework set each week. We will be trialling a system where the students write in their homework timetable at the start of the week and then write none set if necessary. This will make the picture clearer.
- Feedback from parent that homework is not always marked or fed back on. Mr Rumble explained that homework will sometimes be self marked or peer marked in class. Not all homework tasks will be deep marked but should be acknowledged
- Feedback from last forum about PE fixtures has been passed onto PE staff, particularly to do with late home / cancellations etc.

### **Reports**

Mr McAllister went through what each parent will receive and showed pictures of it on the screen. This includes effort grades, homework grades, a comment from each teacher and then a target from each teacher.

The tutor will also write a comment along with the Head of Year (or deputy), and a member of the Senior Management Team.

### **Turnaround week and changes into Year 8**

Discussed setting and setting differences between all subjects. This information is included in the presentation used on the evening.

‘What would you like to see put in place to be ready for year 8?’ Discussion topic introduced and parents given time to come up with ideas.

Ideas were –

- handing out ‘a year in a glance’ sheets that outline and show the whole year for pupils and parents. The online calendar is quite hard to use at times. Comparing the Wiltshire council calendar to the Sheldon calendar is also difficult due to the differences between Wiltshire Council and Sheldon dates. Eugene Spiers had a printout ready that could possibly be used for this.
- ‘Is it possible to make a subscribed calendar for pupils via outlook?’ We will look into doing this – there is also a new school website being released that has a subscribe option on it that people can use.
- Show my homework was stressed as being good and well used by other schools. Eugene Spiers mentioned the homework module recently released on SIMS that could possibly be used in the future.
- Question on mobile phone policy next year. Explained it will be no mobile phones used for Year 7 and 8 next year. This was well received by parents.
- The current transition system was praised by parents.
- Question on homework timetable – explained its position on the website.
- Requested more information directly to parents about extra-curricular activities on offer. We will look at improvements that could be made including sending School Comms home as and when letters about trips are handed out.
- Mr Rumble went through the school’s ideas about being “year 8 ready” on the powerpoint.
- Talked about promotion of clubs – something we will work on next year. It was suggested that someone from each club stands up in assembly and promotes it. This will be actioned in September 2019
- A presentation section of the passport could also be an option that pupils could aim towards doing. ‘Public speaking’ perhaps as a harder to achieve goal.
- Talked and handed out key dates for the remainder of the year.
- Question asking for reading list from the English faculty. We will chase this up again before the holidays.
- Bikeability badges need chasing up – some pupils haven’t received these. We will chase these up.
- Positive feedback re: pupils being involved in the interview process for new jobs.
- It was felt that a training session on MS teams and all new IT systems that are being introduced would be helpful. We will look into doing this and will try to put this in place from September 2019.
- Feedback on lockers – could we speed up the process for the start of the year as before year 7 had quite a while with no lockers which was tricky.
- A parent asked for assurance that the Head of Year will be still here in Year 8 as the Year Group were part of an interview process for a new Head of Year post. Mr Rumble assured the parents that the position was for a different Head of Year position in the school.