

## **Minutes of the Year 8 Parents Forum held on Tuesday 16 October 2018**

Present: STK – Mr Knowles, head of Year  
JZB – Miss Brightmore, Deputy Head of Year  
JAO – Mrs Owen, Assistant Head  
Mrs Carver – Governor

### 1. Vacancy

Mrs Carver introduced herself to the parents of year 8 and advertised a parent governor vacancy. Details can be found on the school website.

### 2. Matters arising from parents

Disruption in lessons – this was discussed on a later point

Supply staff

German Exchange STK advised parents with concerns/questions to contact the MFL teaching staff.

IT provision – STK updated parents on ICT changes and explained that Mr Markey, the new Network Manager, has more changes/updates planned. This year we have invested in 60 new ipads and have moved to Microsoft 365. The main focus is trying to ensure that all students can access the same software at home that they can at school. JAO outlined a big change in 6<sup>th</sup> form allowing students to use mobile devices in lessons and therefore freeing up devices for the lower school.

### 3. The Start of Year 8

Parents commented on their children talking about lots of new groups and sets this year and that a lot were finding this a positive change. STK highlighted that setting was now common place in the majority, but not all, lessons. Copies of setting information was available for parents to take home. JAO highlighted these changes and differences between subject areas were to prepare students for their GCSE studies.

STK explained set changes are common place and are made relatively frequently based of class assessments. When changes do occur communication with home should be made by the subject area.

### 4. Behaviour for Learning

STK, Emma Le Fleming and JZB have been in to a lot of year 8 lessons looking at how well students are settling and how quickly learning is happening. There has been some anti-social behaviour during social times but this has, and is still being, addressed. STK outlined a change in report cards and explained a % score rather than a Yes/No report from teachers was working well to change behaviours. STK reiterated that if students were on the way to or from school and in their uniform then the school will challenge poor behaviour.

## 5. Sheldon Passport

This is a new initiative in year 8 to help us recognise and celebrate student's hard work and commitment. STK described the six challenges and identified that parents/careers may need to support and guide students with the Inspiration Speaker element. This is a yearlong project and rewards will be given out at the end of the year.

## 6. Resilience

Last year's pastoral focus was on kindness, this year the group focus is on resilience. STK highlighted the rubix cube challenge as a personal and tutor group competition to test students' resilience with a difficult task.

Parents enquired about mental health support in school. STK emphasised we do not have a full time in house counsellor but we do buy in specialist support. Pupil support workers also offer an immediate place to talk and listen. JAO shared current work in the 6<sup>th</sup> form on dealing with stress and failure.

Parents queried why the revision road show occurs in year 11, could it not come earlier as it was a real eye opener for students and for parents. STK explained that the reason it is saved until year 11 is because it has a much greater impact on students at this particular time in their education and that resources are shared with younger years when needed. Year 8's will have a revision pack in preparation for their exams and STK would appreciate feedback on its usefulness. A parent suggested The Brain Box by David Hodgson as a good resource for other parents.

## 7. Key Dates

Interim 25<sup>th</sup> Oct

Parent tutor evening 14<sup>th</sup> Nov

Year 8 reports 14<sup>th</sup> March

Parent forum 2 19<sup>th</sup> March

Parent teacher evening 24<sup>th</sup> April

Exams week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> June

Parent forum 3 25<sup>th</sup> June

Interim 10<sup>th</sup> July