

## Minutes of the Year 10 Parent Forum held on Tuesday 27 March 2018

Apologies: Mr Blann who is on paternity leave.

Present: AMA - Mrs Allen, Deputy Head of Year 10.

ELF - Miss le Fleming, Assistant Head of school.

### 1. Update from the Chair of Governors

AMA introduced Megan Jones, Chair of Governors and Cathy Biggs, Year 10 Link Governor. Megan Jones advertised the vacant position of Parent governor which is available. Please see school website for details.

AMA also introduced Ric from Barnes education. He gave parents information regarding the possibility of hosting an exchange student.

### 2. A review of the Year 10 mock examinations

AMA thanked parents for their support during the mock examinations. Students behaved exceptionally and Mrs Payne the Exams Officer has passed on her thanks and appreciation for their excellent behaviour. There were only a few incidents of poor behaviour and these were dealt with. We hope that students felt that it was a helpful experience and a good indication of how their GCSEs are going. It's also a chance for students to practise the exam process and for staff to identify where students might need some extra support.

The exam results were very reassuring and in some areas quite revealing. Results will be included in the reports sent home in April.

Parental feedback

- Where pupils didn't work hard at home, it was reassuring that results reflected this.
- Two weeks before the exams, students explored exam techniques and had time to practise them.

### 3. The Prefect Application Process

AMA showed the timeline for the prefect application process.

- Letter of application handed in by Tuesday 13 March.
- Letters read and thank you cards sent out.
- Names collated and put in staffroom to be endorsed by school staff.
- Tutors will also give a suitability score from 1 – 5 (5 being the most suitable).
- A combination of staff endorsements, letters, the number of Achievement Points and average effort levels will be used to compile a list of students who will be interviewed.
- Interviews will take place in the 2 weeks after the Easter holidays.
- Mr Blann, Mrs Allen, and the Tutor team will finalise the list of prefects and then let students know. 75 students will be selected for these significant leadership posts.
- New prefects will shadow the Year 11s before taking over their duties when they leave at the end of May.
- Prefects will be given the chance to apply to become part of the senior prefect team. Letters will be written and another interview will take place.

Miss Le Fleming explained that almost half of applicants will, despite their merits, be unsuccessful. Managing that disappointment can be difficult at home and school. Our support for them at this time will include a debrief and tutor support. We asked parents to

try and help this process and encourage disappointed pupils to consider looking for other opportunities for responsibility.

The letters have been very impressive and it is really lovely to see the pride that so many of our students take in school.

#### 4. Opportunities for Year 10, including the most able

It's been great to see so many students taking advantage of the opportunities at Sheldon. One area of focus continues to be our Most Able students. Last week there were a large number of parents and students at a presentation from Merton College, Oxford talking about life at university and the application process. It was really positive to see the event so well attended.

Huge number of year 10 pupils are involved in extracurricular events. Acting, singing, dancing, D of E, trips and visits. They are encouraged to be themselves and balance academic studies with other passions.

Other opportunities have included 10 Tors training, the Dance Show, Music Concert, that's actually happening tonight, lots of excellent performances in Oliver!, hosting exchange students, sports teams, primary rugby events etc.

Concern that top end University visits, misses less able children. ELF explained that all students are encouraged to aim high and that information is provided to all students about their potential options once they leave school.

#### 5. Work Experience

Mrs Tillotson and Mrs Penton working very hard to ensure that all pupils receive a placement.

Contact Mrs Tillotson at the school if you do have concerns.

The experience of being in the workplace is a large part of work experience. Even though it may not be an active career choice. Pupils are currently being coached in how to prepare.

A show of hands indicated the majority of pupils have been placed.

#### 6. AOB

##### **Lockdown**

ELF explained the reason for having a lockdown procedure.

We have an open site –Ofsted aren't concerned, about how we manage this, but it does need to be covered.

Parents had received the message about the lockdown earlier in the day and were pleased with how it had been communicated.

There was a question about what happens at lunchtime or if students are out of lessons. ELF reassured parents that plans were in place. We will have another drill in the summer term to practise a less controlled situation.

It was also mentioned that on school trips all students are given emergency cards with details on about what to do in an emergency. This is intended to help students know how to react and help them to respond in a calm and managed way. Hopefully it will never need to happen, but it is important, just in case.