



HGSS Parent Partnership Meeting Minutes

4 September 2016

Mr Jones welcomed parents to the school and introduced members of our Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Mr Jones invited questions from the floor:

Homework

Mr Wooller gave a presentation to parents on progress to tackle Homework issues following on from the Homework Survey. Mr Wooller took questions and stated that he hoped to re-send the Homework Survey at the end of the summer to see if there had been improvements and to highlight any further issues.

Triple Science

Q How do you manage the Triple Science within in the same timetable?

A Students receive one extra hours teaching per week for Years 9, 10 and 11 so they can achieve this. Only the top set takes Triple Science in the school.

Q Are students missing the opportunity to take Triple Science if they are not in the top set?

A The Science Department carefully identify all students who it would be appropriate for them to take the Triple Science so ensure no suitable students miss out.

Year 9 Options Evening

Q One parent stated that the evening had been very well organised but asked if it could be possible to have a parent's evening just prior to the event.

A Yes the school is looking at this and also sending the Booklet home beforehand.

English Marking System

Q Some students do not seem to be being given grades in English?

A We are trialling a new system to respond to Government change to 'Assessment without levels'. Mr Tang explained that by removing the grades it encourages the students to concentrate more on the comments given rather than the grades.

Reading Scheme

Q One parent who has two daughters in the school stated that her younger daughter is reading less?

A We are still following the accelerated reading scheme to ensure all students are reading regularly.

Year 10 After School Netball

Q One parent commented that students had been told that the school was no longer running the Year 10 After School netball club due to the quality of the players. This parent is concerned as their daughter is taking PE GCSE.

A Mr Golding said he would investigate this. Mr Golding has since spoken to the parent in question and given a personal response.

Disruption in Class

Q One parent raised a situation when there had been disruption in a Science lesson from one student and the whole class had lost a practical.

A Mr Jones explained that the school has an SLT on call system in place whereby one member of SLT is on call and on radio at all times to deal with any students causing disruptive behaviour. As a result the vast majority of lessons are quiet to promote constructive learning.

Toilets

Q One parent raised the appalling state of one of the toilets.

A The school has responded swiftly to this. There have been assemblies to help educate students so that the small minority stop vandalising toilets. The Site Team have also instigated daily audits of all school toilets so we can ensure any issues are rectified immediately and any patterns of poor behaviour are quickly dealt with. The number of reported incidents has fallen dramatically since this was put into effect.

Postcards

One parent wanted to thank the school for the Postcards it sends to acknowledge good work/effort by students. Her child had received several and was really proud of them – rewards are important. A parent also wanted to thank the English Department for the individual support which had really helped her son.

School Day

Mr Jones said that last year we had looked at the School Day and possible changes. Increasing staffing in preparation for this had allowed for the 6 teaching groups across the school this year. However, the change to 6 periods from 5 a day would mean additional staffing and there is currently a real difficulty in recruiting outstanding teachers. However, lunchtime is currently too long as the students eat their lunch in 30 minutes leaving them bored for the last 10 minutes. This is when any negative behaviour issues arise so the school will be consulting on cutting the school day by 10 minutes.