

Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 20th November 2012

6.00 p.m. ~ 7.00 p.m.

VENUE ~ Blue 10

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence RP
 - Kay Corley resigned due to work commitments
 - Stewart Robertson
 - Stuart May

2. Pathways JF
 - National Curriculum levels and level descriptors
 - i.e. Geography level 1-8 and then exceptional performance
 - i.e. Maths have 3 different level descriptors
 - i.e. Science have 4 different level descriptors for 3 different subjects
 - Currently the Government is changing levels, but JF said he will put a link on the website
 - Average National Curriculum Levels ~ End of Year 9 have to be reported ~ last year it was 6, but varies year on year
 - Year 9 reports different than Year 7 and Year 8
 - 5, 3, 1 ~ Why not a 2 and 4 on reports with descriptors?
 - Difficult to do ~ if too descriptive it may be more difficult to pinpoint students
 - *Parent commented* ~ if your child was a level 3, but nearly level 4 its ok, but if level 3 and nearly level 2 there is a concern
 - *Parent commented* ~ daughter always gets homework done, but gets level 3
 - *Parent commented* ~ why not a level 3+ or level 3 -
 - *Parent commented* ~ red, amber or green ~ colour coded
 - *Parent commented* ~ level 3 for a subject, but always completed homework 'Can't give a level 5 as no room for improvement'
 - *Parent commented* ~ would be useful for report to come out prior to parents' evening
 - End of Year 9 Reports ~ very different because at the end of Year 9 we have to report on their assessment results nationally. On the back of the report it will show all the different subjects and the breakdown of levels. Could do with a paragraph to explain level comparison with Teacher Assessment.



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- *Parent comment* ~ as long as they know they are in the right area / space [level] then that should help ~ they do go through this with teachers.
- *Parent comment* ~ it would be useful for teachers to tell parents at the parents' evenings what GCSE grade it would be.
- *Parent comment* ~ student is in Year 10; it felt like they were starting again, levels out and now GCSE targets.
- KS2 levels now set the KS4 targets at GCSE, as a result Year 8 now have a Grade target not a level target.
- *Parent comment* ~ if student does not achieve a particular grade they could miss out on taking English Literature ~ this is also the case with Science. It was felt that this was information that parents should know in advance.
- Setting has recently changed: set in Year 7 and Year 8 in English, Maths and Science in each half year groups [4x and 4y].
- Year 9 set in English, Maths and Science [x6 groups and y2 groups 80% to 20% split] based on ability, assessment tasks, and knowledge of the students.
- Year 10 and Year 11 ~ the X and Y carry on, but no banding in the option subjects.
- In Year 10 there is a common curriculum where they are all taught English, Maths and Science ~ top sets will do English Literature and Triple Science. In addition they study RE with some students completing the GCSE together with PE and Skills-4-Life. The compulsory elements of the subjects take up 60% of the timetable which runs over two weeks.
- This was followed by provisional blocks for Year 9 Pathways. In the past we have offered a variety of subjects to students and then fitted blocks around it. This year we have set the blocks and students will then need to choose, 2 from A, B, C and D and they will get one from each block. They are based on last year's option blocks. However, there is always going to be a situation where we can't please everyone.

3. AOB

- Year 10 Work Experience ~ going ahead. The lack of feedback/follow up was questioned as some students have not received anything. Parents were very much in favour of carrying on with work experience.
- Post 16 and Year 9 Pathways information: Parents would like an explanation on the different courses available. E.g. BTEC level 2, BTEC level 3, Pass, Merit, Distinction, AS, A2 and the equivalencies etc.
- Outer coats: Parents would like clarification on why the coats have to be taken off as students come in.
- Homework deadlines ~ need time to complete
- Planners ~ Teachers must sign these every week. One student's planner hadn't been signed for five weeks.
- Letters to inform parents about form tutor changes.



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- Green slips: parents really like receiving green slips; keep them coming. Parents didn't want batches of 50.
- Tutor day, happy with this. Some differences between the responses of form tutors.
- The new lunchtime 1:20 p.m. rather than 12:35 p.m., happy with this.
- Reduction of PE from 80 mins to 60 mins a week
- Showers in PE?: yes there are.

Next Meeting **22nd January 2013** and Mr Mitchell will focus on BSF including a tour and questions.

AOB

- RP discussed the idea of a fire and the response we need to make. What ideas did they have?
- Useful to have actions to the points raised in the previous meeting at the top of the next meeting agenda.
- Post 16 Evening ~ Representatives from local universities at the evening advising students on possible A-levels they need for certain degree courses. (This happened at another local sixth form evening).
- More information earlier on the different types of qualifications.

