

MINUTES OF THE PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 12th May 2015

Present: Helen Norris, Elaine Thorner

Apologies: Sandra Donnachie

1. Staff email -

Mr Digby has agreed that we can trial using a central system from September. This would include having each 'subject @ sir harry' on the website so that the emails can then be sent through to the necessary staff. That way, HOY and CMs will be aware of any communication relevant to their area.

Guidance on sending emails will be reviewed so that the policy is clear.

2. Outcomes of the Student Election (student suggestions to make improvements in the school) -

639 votes in total which we believe works out at around a 68% turn out of students – very impressive!!

Progress – 70 votes

Tomorrow – 142 votes

Transform – 303 votes

Vision – 124 votes

So Transforms are duly elected as the students' choice. Their policies were as follows:

- Key Stage 3 – Trips abroad and other reward trips to be offered first to students who are doing well on Behaviourwatch.
- Key Stage 4 – Sixth Form induction needs to be a realistic time with proper lessons and sessions, including double lessons planned rather than fun taster sessions, and that a wider range of subjects should be offered as there is less emphasis on creative or artistic subjects.
- Key Stage 5 – To change Year 12 Sixth Form Skills for Life lessons to a system with options for students to sign up to. These could include coursework sessions, work experience, helping out in other lessons, other volunteering, or life skills such as cooking. Year 13 sessions on UCAS personal statements and careers should still be compulsory.

3. Study Skills

Helen Norris working to give further advice on study skills. Asked middle leaders for things they consider important. These include:-

1. Exam board and year of specification;
2. List of controlled assessments with percentage of assessment;
3. Deadlines (if known);
4. Marking criteria;
5. Key revision websites and books;
6. Wall charts for fridge/door – key dates and hotspots for each subject;
7. Links to the College website;
8. Planner on website with important pages;
9. Glossary of terms e.g. Spag, Progress Check, FFT, exam jargon – e.g. Analyse etc.;
10. Use white information slips on Behaviour Watch to inform parents;
11. Explanation of how to revise;
12. Explanation of the basics on effective study.

Booklet is nearly complete (for current Year 10 moving into Year 11). We are hoping to hold an evening for Year 10 parents which will advise about Post 16 choices and also give information about supporting your child. Longer term- guidance for all years through Careers & Skills for Life.

4. AOB

- i. The Judd's buses between Coates and Whittlesey will be stopping on Saturday June 6th June. I have spoken to Judd's and they have confirmed this. I have spoken to the Cambridgeshire Education Transport team and as this is a public bus service that a lot of the children use, there is nothing that they can do to help (most of Coates falls just short of the 3 mile mark). Jonathan Digby is going to follow up.
- ii. Guidance for parents of Year 12 - Is it possible to find out exactly what the guidance is for parents for young people? Is it imperative that they study Post 16? If, for example, a student doesn't do well enough to stay on until A2, where do they stand in terms of guidance and follow up? Are there specific guidelines from the Government on this?
- iii. The Brilliant Club – A chance to offer opportunities for Gifted and Talented students through a charity which focuses on aspirations for gifted students. Helen to discuss with Terry Copper and explore further.