

## **Parent Forum minutes: 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017**

### **Agenda:**

- Transitions
- Homework
- Results
- Staff Absence
- New Pathways Model for assessment

### **Transitions:**

- KS2-3
- Key staff visits to feeder schools
- Head of Year – See students in lessons
- Information collected – spread of different abilities, SEN, behavioural issues, requests to keep apart or keep together, Disadvantaged etc.
- Ivo generally try to match requests from primary schools
- Try to group some students together to allocate support such as TA
- Transition days
  - Thursday is a full day – Very big and positive day
  - Same evening, parent are invited to meet head and tutors
  - Day2 – sports day
  - Then data sheets are issued and data collected
  - Need this so we can contact parents and set up on ParentMail etc.
- Introducing “No wasted weeks” – PiXL - work with primary school for useful activities post SATS.
- School is reviewing the way to invite parents in for coffee mornings.
- Looking to expand that as very few take this up.
- Looking at how English and Maths teachers can share with primary school teachers
- Looking at how we can get more information about MFL.
- Taster lessons
- TB – loved first full day.
- CH – found it really good – found it hard to get information for G4S and Parentmail as they were told could access G4S in error – can’t access this until September.
- When does the child know which form they are – On the transition day.
- Would be nice to include House captains to make children feel part of it.
- Launched PiXL-edge trial with Year 8 forms
- Plan is to build up from Yr 7 – about getting students to take initiative
- Example: Some students went to Hemingford and made a video of what life would be like at St. Ivo
- ZL: nice to come from students

### **Homework:**

- Lots of inconsistency regarding homework
- Is G4S aimed at parents or children? – AD – both
- G4S app coming through
- CH – already e-mailed in – teachers don’t sign that the homework has been completed or marked
- AD regularly reminds staff to complete
- JW also raised the same point.
- What is the expectation about how much of homework will be marked and
- Some concerns about how explicit the homework is.
- There is a lot of “finish off” homework which some children have done in class.

Request that homework can be marked complete by students as well as staff be sent to Go4Schools. AD to follow this up.

Merits and de-merits – concern was raised over not being told what merits/demerits are for. AD – will discuss with Mr Varey (SLT with responsibility for the merits/demerits system).

School is looking at how they can make homework better learning experiences. This will be introduced next September.

AS – can this be implemented in-year.

AD – some departments have planned for the whole year some are trying it out this year

AS – what are we doing to make sure that all departments are consistently coming to the standard of the best departments?

MC – shared how we ensure consistency using our MAF policy (Marking Assessment and Feedback). Should be a residual consistency that once every half term, there should be a high quality and challenging piece of work (SAR – strength, action response). Members of staff mark based on mark schemes. Students have to respond to this.

MC then sends out a sheet to check the marking samples of every member of staff which are analysed based on quality of marking, feedback, student response and application of SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). The samples from staff are rated to enable an analysis of trends over time. HMI inspectors regard this as the foundation for quality of teaching and learning (GOOD) judgement at the last inspection. So at certain checkpoints, all data is collected. Any sample needing improvement will have a second check done shortly afterwards.

Maths homework – Yr 7 was regular through MyMaths – now not relevant – one piece had answers on the sheet. Mr. Mackay is KS3 coordinator – he will look into it.

MC – some discussion in core subjects about how to do homework – PiXL methods are being encouraged.

PiXL Maths app has just been sent out to all Yr 11s. This will identify where students' gaps in knowledge are over a period of time. MathsWatch – extremely useful for parents to support their children - combined parents package. The school is looking to purchase this to support students with their maths.

MC acknowledged that the quality of homework was not consistently there at the moment.

## **2017 results:**

Some excellent individual results but the lvo is not where we want to be. Initial analysis indicates that it is a larger number of students especially boys underachieving in no particular subject that caused the issue. Boys and Disadvantaged pupils appear to have achieved less than desired.

LC – demotivating for staff

LD – changing of Maths and English – caused difficulties for staff predictions. Linda doesn't think the school should beat itself up so much

ZL – however it was a level playing field across all schools

RM – you only get one chance

Have moved and will identify where we need to move on – a whole raft of ways in which we can increase the expectations of the students

AD – the governors are having a presentation soon about the things we are planning to do to raise expectations and improve results.

DP – this school does a lot for Yr11 and the students with parental support, and parents of students also need to take responsibility.

MC - A lot of energy from SLT to understand how other schools are doing it. Quoted Sam Griffin – “we need to take some risks to take the next leap”.

This is partly what the uniform, house system, student leadership is all about – taking pride, responsibility and building resilience amongst students to help raise achievement.

#### **Covering Staff:**

KR – cover supervisors not qualified to teach PE – shouldn't there be qualified staff

MC – school follows national guidance. Cover supervisors are there for planned or unplanned absence from teachers and may not always be trained in the specific subject. Cover staff are often visited by senior staff as part of their 'on call' rota for checking lessons.

KR – relayed about how one student was ridiculed about their writing by a member of cover staff. MC said any reported incidents of such a nature are followed up

Discussion about Flu vaccinations – may be cost effective in terms of cover staff.

MC said that he would be happy to look into this.

MC – school is being much stricter on amount of time staff are out of work for and actions include preventing staff from going on trips if they have spent too much time out of work for whatever reason. The departments are trying to protect exam classes.

#### **New Pathways how will it develop throughout the year:**

AD in charge of assessment. For each subject there will be a progression grid for each unit which will detail understanding is required in each unit for different levels. Departments have written all the assessments. Students have started seeing these and using them in lessons. Pathways are for yr 7-9. Assessments more in line with GCSE grades will be set for yr 10-11.

Might be useful to have one next term after next tracking point – after Feb Half term to see how the new system is working.

Aim is to raise expectations and standards.

#### **AOB:**

Uniform – complaints with ties and blazers

Problem with Price and Buckland raised by Katrina

Response by MC with details of the uniform and how it was delivered

Girls skirts being rolled up was mentioned and MC replied that all students in Years 7-10 have a green card in their blazer pocket which details the school uniform and expectations.

Regular checks – compliance has been brilliant and MC would like to thank parents for working hard to make sure their child is wearing correct uniform.

Any quality issues – have been dealt with

Amount of make-up worn by some girls raised as a concern

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm**