



Minutes of Parent Forum meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2022

In Attendance: VB (Assistant Headteacher), SG (Assistant Headteacher), RH (Assistant Headteacher), CJ (Joint Chair), GM, SD, SE, CG, NS, SC, SS,

1. Apologies: JS, MH, HE, DC

2. Minutes of last meeting

These were read by attendees and agreed with no amendments to be made.

3. Actions from last meeting

An update was given on Personal Development and E-Safety, including:

- VTB had met with ST Head of PD and discussed follow-up actions needed from Form Tutors following outside speakers to ensure that key messages are communicated and taken away – these will also be (and have already been) communicated in weekly comms
- The appropriateness of the PD curriculum was discussed – there has been an audit of PD provision that demonstrates the cohesion with National Curriculum, however, ST will review sensitive topics to ensure these are delivered in an age-appropriate way
- PD curriculum is now in all curriculum booklets which are available online
- Regarding E-safety, two parental resources have been shared via comms, including a *Keeping Safe* wellbeing newsletter, to inform and empower parents to help keep their children safe while they are online.

No follow-up actions were needed.

4. SDfL, Rewards, Extra-curricular – points discussed

- Context was shared about the evolution of the SDfL system and what the new amendments are in relation to the 9-week system, including improving consistency in the way students can gain rewards, and providing more useful data that can then be used to raise standards ongoing. The new Merit system was explained.
- How the data will be used was questioned and RH explained that Heads of Year have already presented their behaviour action plans to SLT for the first 9-week block – the impact of these will be monitored and reviewed at the end of the second 9-week block.

- One concern raised was about the 'always' children who are consistently meeting our expectations, and how their rewards may be different to others who may lose points and then improve their behaviour.
- RH explained that the Merit system hopes to address this, as boys who are consistently 'good' will gain more merits over time and be able to access the full suite of rewards, both at the 9-week juncture and at the end of the year.
- The Autumn term 'end of year' trip was discussed, with some concern about students at KS4 missing valuable learning time and not wanting to attend, even though they were entitled to. An added concern raised was that some who attended the reward trip were perceived to have been penalised as they then had work to catch up on that they had missed. The rationale for the trip being in the Autumn term was explained – theme parks are much quieter and the students' experience is more community orientated.
- It was suggested that a range of end of year rewards may be more appropriate, perhaps with some consideration given to KS3 and 4. Student voice has been used via student council, but this was noted as an area for development. Additionally, it was suggested that some parent voice may be helpful to make rewards purposeful and appropriate.
- There was praise and thanks for the Autumn trip as some parents communicated that their sons had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the event. One parent also added that in the current financial climate, amidst budget cuts, it was commendable that the school is still maintaining the high profile of rewarding students. This was echoed by many.
- A question was raised about how well the students know the SDfL and rewards system – reassurance was given that they know this well and that it is embedded in language used around school. Some parents echoed that their sons know the system well.
- It was noted that the attendance element of the new Merit system was causing some students anxiety about their attendance, especially those with chronic or serious one-off illnesses. Reassurance was given that the 9-week system hopes to address these as it allows students to gain merits across the year and attendance rewards are given in shorter time blocks.
- It was asked if the weekly comms could remind parents of where in the 9-week block we are so that they can keep track of this and discuss with their sons.
- Whether or not the criteria should be reviewed to consider individual circumstances was suggested, giving the example of students who may have shown huge improvement in behaviour after a poor start to the year. RH explained that a plan is in place for Improvement Merits to be gained by these students and ensure that they gain appropriate levels of rewards.
- One discussion point was the sharing of behaviour data in form time, with a concern being that those who struggle to meet expectations may be demoralised by this reminder. RH clarified that students are not ranked and that the sharing of data offers students a reflection time – there is no comparison to other students unless students do so themselves.

- A concern was raised about the promise of specific rewards that do not come to fruition. It was noted that communication about rewards needs to be given careful thought to avoid disappointment.
- A further concern was noted around individual rewards given to students who may be on report or on an improving behaviour trajectory. The key point raised was about the perception of this with the 'always' students.

5. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 15th February 2023

Provisional topic for discussion: Reporting and data shared with parents