



HIGHAM LANE SCHOOL PARENT FORUM MINUTES – WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 2017 (15 x Attendees)

1. Welcome and introductions

Ms Fern welcomed all the parents and thanked everyone for coming. She then passed over to Tom Ind who carried out a presentation on Revision, Stress Management and organisational tips for students (powerpoint attached).

After his presentation, Ms Fern informed parents that there is a new initiative starting in school from September involving 'Curriculum Ambassadors' who are selected as experts in certain subjects and will be available to students to advise on areas of difficulty.

Mrs Robinson then explained the new Home Learning Policy that the school will be adopting from September (powerpoint attached).

Following the presentation, a parent asked why in Year 7 students are given a book to read and tested on it two weeks later – why is this initiative only carried out with year 7s and why are students not directed to the LRC in later years? Mrs Robinson explained that reading is a tricky area but that students do read in lessons and should have a reading book with them at all times in school and that students have silent reading at least once a week during form time.

The parent explained that she really struggles to get her son to read at all. Mrs Robinson did say that she would speak to Mrs Somel about a reward or loyalty scheme to encourage other year groups to read more.

A parent then asked if parents are told in advance when revision classes are so that they can plan for them.

Mrs Robinson explained that these are normally only for Year 11 classes during half term and on the Saturdays before the exam but that a timetable does go out with students (and is also put on parent portal) and that generally from January onwards there are revision classes taking place on Mondays to Fridays and that also the LRC has extended opening times and the staff are available to students for any help with revision.

Another parent said that their daughter, who is in year 10, has been to various presentations but is really struggling to get her focused as there are so many distractions at home. Mrs Fern explained she had a son in year 10 and that the only way was to take a hard line with x-boxes and phones etc and that these 'treats' only be allowed after school work has been done. Ms Fern did offer to speak to him at the end.

FEEDBACK ON SCHOOL MATTERS

TIMING OF STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents did not want these going out on the last day of term as parents could not then speak to staff until after the holiday. Ms Fern said she had been working on the calendar and that this should not happen again.

INFORMATION RE. SCHOOL PRODUCTION INFORMATION BEING SENT TO PARENTS AND NOT JUST PASSED ON TO STUDENTS (RE. REHARSALS ETC)

Ms Fern confirmed that this request had been passed on to the Drama department.

AOB

One parent said that the school had been incredibly supportive to her daughter and Tom in particular, whose support had enabled her daughter to manage the stress of exams. The parent felt it was good for the students to have someone else to talk to who understood the pressures of school. Other parents also confirmed that Tom had been a great help and one parent said that their daughter was left disappointed with her Progress Report but that Tom managed to bring some positives out of a negative situation

Mrs Robinson explained that it was important to remember that these students do need support and extra care at exam times as there is a lot of pressure on them.

Next meeting to be arranged