

Notes from Bishop Ramsey Parents' Link Group meeting

Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at 7.00pm

Attended by: Cllr C. Dann (chair: Governor) (CD), Mr A Lunnon (Staff: AHT) (AL), and 7 parents.

1. Welcome to Parents

CD welcomed parents to the meeting, especially any new Year 7 parents.

2. Matters Arising from 2nd November meeting

- **The new Tracking Data format** had been received by the parents with mixed feelings, although the traffic lights colour coding was seen by all as helpful. The reduction to 3 levels from 5 perhaps didn't give as much of a feel for progress but if a student was flagged as green, they should be getting extension work, if they were not meeting expectations and were flagged as red, there should be intervention from the subject teacher or year director. One parent had definitely not found this to be the case and **AL** agreed to follow this up individually. Linked with the **new Report format** (just published for Yr 9) it was agreed in general that it was an improvement although the Tracking data should also be produced on the report as it seemed that the ATD datasheet was needed to help check up on progress. Some Design reports in Yr 9 only had subject information in them and no comment about the student.
- **SCITT: School Centre for Initial Teacher Training** was progressing well and more interviews and placements were taking place.
- **Staff training** was to remain on a Friday, after the last lesson.

3. ATD Questionnaire results

AL reviewed these findings. A number of Yr 9 parents were present at the meeting and agreed with the findings that not enough homework was given. Some students had voiced the opinion that the teachers were not giving homework as they have less marking if they don't. This Yr 10's parent had seen an increase in the homework volume.

Lack of corrections by teachers of grammar/punctuation/handwriting made it very difficult for parents to instil the importance of these things into their children as the children (particularly boys) maintain that the teachers don't see them as important. **AL** agreed to feed this back to the Management team.

4. Time Keeping

Electronic bells were to be introduced at 8.35, 12.35 and 2.10. The Number 696 bus is arriving earlier at school now so fewer pupils are regularly arriving late and disrupting form time. Some parents had noticed unexplained absences in Parent Portal for Yr 12/13 students which didn't seem to have been recorded at the time but appeared later. Any issues with Parent Portal were to be flagged to Mrs Shepherd.

5. BR Mark 3

The school was submitting a bid to provide a second BR school, the rationale being to open up the 'BR' brand to people of all faiths and no faiths. A new secondary school is needed in the north of Hillingdon to cope with demand for places. BR3 is proposing 8 forms entry in first year of opening, 2017, building to 10 forms. The borough has stated that a further school will be needed by 2019. The admissions criteria had not yet been settled. The meeting urged **AL** to ensure that information on the bid was included in the Recorder.

6. Curriculum changes

The school is moving to a 2 year only KS3, and a 3 year GCSE stage. From next year, Yr9s will start the GCSE courses at the beginning of Year 9. The current Yr9's are having group interviews for their Pathways choices, although individual interviews are offered if wanted. A group interview at this stage, for most students helps to promote questions, but quieter students can have separate ones.

7. Make up

The inconsistencies of some girls getting away with make-up whilst others did not, were seen as sending very mixed messages. This was especially so when quieter girls felt they were 'caught' whereas more difficult girls were allowed to continue. The parents very strongly felt that the only way to address this was to have a total ban on make-up which was always enforced. Although this would be time-consuming to start with, parents felt if it was particularly enforced from the very start of Yr 7, it was hoped that it could make a difference. This is especially difficult when some teachers feel that a certain small amount of make-up is acceptable, but others do not, so the girls never know where they stand. The only workable solution was seen as no make-up at all, although the effort needed to implement this now was recognised as very difficult.

8. Girls PE Kit

The requirement for jogging bottoms only or leggings under shorts in the winter was unclear. **AL** agreed to clarify and it was suggested that a letter should go out to everyone.

9. Discipline

The use of bad language was not tolerated, although a parent cited a case when a student had used it repeatedly in class and the child was not removed from the school for some time. **AL** agreed to ensure that all teachers knew that any instances must be reported and students are to receive consequences. An isolation room has been trialled since January for students on internal exclusions. This is manned by a member of senior management through a rota and is now to be fully implemented as it has been successful in reducing the number of internal exclusions.

10. Parent Pay

Part payment implementation was again requested.

Post meeting note: referring to Feb 2015 meeting minutes: *the school is charged by Parent Pay for part payments not set up as staged from the beginning, hence the difficulty in resolving this.*

11. The Student Support Centre Flyers

These were sent out every autumn term and requested a return from parents even if not interested. Parents present felt that this was not appropriate, certainly not at the beginning of every school year for all years, perhaps just years 7 & 12. Details providing a link could be given on the school website, certainly not produced as a hard copy, bearing in mind that the school now sent out very little as a hard copy. It would be interesting to know if the school were paid for this at all. Mrs Watson is the liaison point and **AL** would check with her.

12. Site access to evening meetings

The recent year 9 Pathway evening letter had specifically said that the Sports Hall entrance should be used, yet this was locked on the evening. The frustration of the access to the site is felt by most parents. The reasons for the locking of the Warrender Way entrance should be made clear to parents regularly in letters or in the Recorder; but the school were urged to ensure that the Sports Hall and Main entrance should be open for every meeting. If you try to enter the school one way and it is locked, it is incredibly annoying and time-consuming to have to go to the entrance on the far side, particularly when people are rushing into the school after work.

Date of future meetings: Tuesday 21st June 2016.