

Parent Council Meeting

21/09/23

Minutes

Present: J Ramsdale, D Smith, M Powell, S Siviter, C Ward, D McLaren, R Goodall

Apologies: P Cummins

Item 1 – Welcome back!

Here are the dates for the Parent Council meetings during 2023-24:

Thursday 21st September 2023
Thursday 23rd November 2023
Thursday 22 nd February 2024
Thursday 25 th April 2024
Thursday 23rd May 2024
Thursday 4 th July 2024

Meetings take place between 6:00pm and 7:30pm.

Item 2 - New build – update provided by J Ramsdale. This will be a standing item on future agendas, until the new build is completed. Emphasised the potential for enhanced provision, e.g. sports facilities (widening pupil participation, new sports), dining facilities, teaching and learning (classrooms). Community use benefits.

Parents were keen to see access to green spaces for the students during social times e.g. sensory garden, walking track, supervised field access, nature spaces e.g. wildflowers, trees, scope for a Forest School-style offer.

Item 3 - Year 7 Settling in – feedback from M Powell regarding settling in was very positive. Quickly found feet. J Ramsdale shared some photographs of the Friendship Club in action; knit and natter. An example of efforts made in school to ensure that every student gets off to a good start.

Item 4 - Extra-curricular offer – feedback – parents were unanimous in their praise of the extra-curricular offer; ‘lots of choice, lunch and after school options, principle of equity and fairness through tracking and ensuring access for all, forward planning for expensive trips helpful. M Powell thought the Participation Evening was successful and helpful. All parents commented on the positive impact of the Club / Society Fair, encouraging all students to sign up for at least one thing.

Item 5 - Parent – school links – discussion – J Ramsdale shared brief details of a proposed ‘Bingo Night’ to be held before Christmas. Parents, students, teachers and families all invited.

Funds raised for school 'extras'. J Ramsdale asked parents to think about other ways of strengthening home-school links and bring ideas for discussion to the next meeting.

AOB

1. Concern raised about the safety of students on Cop Lane, particularly around the pelican crossing. Could the council provide supervision of the crossing like that at Cop Lane Primary School? Or, could an additional duty spot be put in place? J Ramsdale pointed out that this would also have to be explored re. the new build, with students potentially crossing at new points in the road.
2. Parents would like to know about the setting policy and procedure. Rationale and expectations regarding communication with student and home to be clarified.

ACTION: J Ramsdale to ensure that this is communicated effectively to all parents and students in the future.

Meeting closed 7:45pm.

J Ramsdale, September 2023