

Notes from the Parent Forum Meeting Wednesday 5th May 2021

Present: Andrew Mead – Headmaster

Heidi Miles - notes

RM, TS, TL, AR, SRO, JB, TB, RO, JBruce

		Actions
1.	<p>Mr Mead gave a list of topics that would be covered at this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Assessed Grades Year 11 Prom Uniform review The protest Post lockdown and returning to normal Sandwalk Transition <p>The meeting started with discussion around the recent protest within school. Parents were very impressed by the way the issues with clothing were handled. It was amazing how something negative was turned into a positive. There had been interesting discussions at home and it was worrying to hear the experiences that girls had had. MEA said that there was a lot of education that needed to happen and attitudes on social media had to change. The group recognised that the school was listening.</p> <p>MEA said it had been a difficult couple of weeks and that he took full responsibility. The teacher at the heart of the video had stood at the protest for 3 hours, being open and talking with the students, which took great courage. The school had received mostly positive appreciation from parents. MEA had heard from other schools, issues around uniform and the ganging up on teachers. Looking forward, respect issues will be covered in PHSE lessons, this will include expanding the PHSE and inviting outside speakers into school. We need students to understand what a healthy relationship is and want to create an ethos of mutual respect and for students to feel safe and not be frightened of being different.</p> <p>The meeting then moved onto Year 11 and exams. MEA explained that Year 11's were being assessed 2/3 times a day and it is very hard on them not having the controlled conditions of an exam hall. The school was still paying the exam boards £90K even though the school staff were marking and moderating the assessments to make everything was fair.</p> <p>Parents were proud of the fact that Year 11 students went to their lessons on the Protest day, acknowledging that their exams were more important. Due to confusion within the press about grades and assessments, parents have missed the Year 11 Parent meetings that usually take place.</p> <p>MEA confirmed that there will be no study leave and that assessments will be 45 mins with possibly 4/5 a day. He acknowledged that it is difficult for students staying onto take A levels, are they ready for the pressures of 6th form? After the GCSE exams there will be low pressure transition work sent out to students who will be attending 6th form.</p> <p>Q. Do students have the same teacher from Yr 10 in Yr 11? - Yes MEA explained that the Year 10 exams will be in the last week of June in the Sports Hall, this will be useful as it will become routine and getting students ready for mocks in November and March 2022.</p> <p>Online Parents evenings – how did parent's find these? MEA – The appointments had been made longer to 6 mins, most staff prefer them on line. 80% of parents that answered the online questionnaire were in favour of online parent's evenings.</p>	

	<p>Forum – It felt that teachers were ‘telling’ parents and that parents didn’t get a chance to ask questions. Parents felt that they were talked at and it was difficult getting the 2 way conversation going. Have the teachers received feedback? It was suggested that the Parents evenings are rebranded – parents should be actively encouraged to bring their child. For older students the teacher needs to say how much time they should be spending on subjects leading up to their exams. MEA explained that all staff are emailed the results of the surveys and items are discussed in staff briefing. Students taking ART, there is an expectation to stay behind after school and complete extra work in school. As a guide students should be looking at 1.5 hrs per evening with 2 homeworks a night. MEA said it would be useful to undertake a survey across the school regarding homework. Students encouraged to write homework in their planners rather than relying on teams.</p> <p>MEA explained the outline of the Uniform review currently being undertaken. In the 6th form business dress is now outdated, smart attire will be in the clear guidelines for boys. Ties will be removed for boys in the 6th form, the overall look will be smarter. There will be two styles of skirt available (pleated and straight) + trousers. Skort a possible option. Tailored shorts will be offered to KS3, don’t want to look messy. The blazer, school shirt and tie is a must the colour in non-negotiable. Q. could we stipulate the wearing of tights? A. No, only length of skirt. There maybe a supply shortage with uniform due to worldwide issues.</p> <p>MEA outlined events that are due to take place in the term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandwalk, yes as it is outside (Yr11 + 13 if they want to join, let the school know) • Prize Giving, yes as it is outside • Prom for Yr11 & Yr12 – tickets on sale today, it will open up to Yr12 in in two weeks’ time. <p>Q. The virtual careers fair being run by BPC on the 20th May – is that being promoted through school? A. MEA to check with organisers</p>	
3.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Wednesday 30th June 2021 at 7pm An automatic invite will be sent out to parents who have already attended the Parent Forum.</p>	