

Alderman White School

Parent forum via Teams Wednesday 30 November 2022

Chair: Helen Hanslow

Minutes: Karen Hodges

1. Feedback from last meeting

Updates from school staff as below:

- a. German exchange trip – planning in progress, mindful of cost increases.
- b. Hard copy planners available to purchase Y9-11. Free issued to Y7&8.
- c. No further uniform changes.
 - Blazer, tie & PE top are only mandatory branded clothing. Plain black tracksuit bottoms or shorts can now be worn for PE instead of branded items. Uniform suppliers & school website details have been updated accordingly.
 - Good take-up for pre-loved uniform sales, especially blazers.
 - Jewellery policy change - pilot extended to end of this term & positive feedback so far.
 - Box for donations of pre-loved uniform box to be available in reception shortly.
- d. Advance warning of exam timetable has been sent to all Y11 parents. Also, on MCAS, website & student portal. 50-60% attendance at parents' welcome meetings where the timetable was also highlighted for each year group.
- e. Toilets – planning to start refurbishment February. Will also open mothballed toilets in Humanities area.
- f. Request that communications home specify a year group – no further comments raised.
- g. Messages indicating that progress reports are available – parents noted that improvements have been noticed.

2. School dinners

Feedback that school dinners are less popular because quality has declined.

School response:

- a. The new supplier offers an improvement on vegan options. Currently working with Aspens to offer vegan options of the same meal (e.g., vegan bangers & mash on sausage & mash day).
- b. Due to have a hydration station installed – should increase selection of bottled drinks available.
- c. More students are taking up the hot meal option (sit down meal). Takeout option retained. Reduced breaktime offer. Improved labelling, including prices.
- d. Considering seeking student feedback after Christmas.
- e. Mandy Holling to speak to catering team regarding feedback that students felt they were withholding meals from first lunch shift, so they were available for second shift.
- f. Response to comment that some students queue all lunchtime - queue is a lot quieter after start of lunch. There has been some lunchtime staff absence & Fridays are always busier due to fish & chips. Senior staff in attendance at lunchtime as well as lunch supervisors

When weather is poor, is there adequate space for students to eat lunch?

School response:

- a. Aware of occasional issues.
- b. Do sometimes move PE arrangements to free up sports hall/gym indoor space.
- c. Also request staff to supervise students in classrooms.
- d. Children can always approach senior staff in the dining room if there are issues on any given day.

3. Online parents' evenings

- a. Some parents experienced technical issues at the Y8 parents' evening. Delays and broken connections. Alex Young to follow up, but school has not received a lot of feedback to this effect.
- b. Only one parent in Y11 formally reported technical problems.
- c. Parents' Forum attendees spoke both for & against face-to-face parents' evenings.
- d. A Y10 parent commented that they had never met any subject teachers in person.
- e. Another parent commented that some existing parents has used the Y5&6 open evenings as an opportunity to come into school.
- f. Mrs Mellors said she is very aware of the lack of face-to-face contact, especially for Y9&10 parents. Committed to offering parents in every year group the opportunity to come onto site & meet with staff, but this will not necessarily take the form of an in-subject parents' evening. Y10 date confirmed – 'Success at KS4' evening for students & parents scheduled for 11 May. Planning on site event for Y8. Y11 'Success at KS4' also scheduled.
- g. Too early to tell whether alternative online events will meet parent/staff desire for parents to feel a connection to the school.
- h. Mrs Mellors to consider survey on parental preference & online parents' evening experience to date.

4. Timing of Y8 reports.

- a. Reports were issued shortly after parents' evening. Noted by Mrs Mellors and will endeavour to rectify for next year.

5. Google Classroom

- a. A parent requested that all homework is put on Google Classroom. Staff to be reminded.
- b. Should parents expect an e-mail every week? A parent observed that it seems patchier this academic year. Anyone not receiving them should e-mail Alex.Young@whptrust.org. Should arrive weekly.

6. AoB

a. Letters and e-mails

- Request for everything to be sent by e-mail as occasionally parents only receive a letter.

b. Planned absence

- A parent was unsure whether the e-mail inbox used for advising of planned absence is monitored, as no acknowledgement has been received.
- Mr Farnie explained that the e-mail inbox is the correct process, as set out on the school website. It is also good practice to let Progress Lead & Tutor know, but this should not be necessary.
- Mr Farnie to follow up to see whether parents can receive acknowledgement of these e-mails.

c. Christmas Carol

- Thanks were given for all the effort of the staff involved. Mr Stephan will pass the message to the team.
- There is c70-75% participation in enrichment activities, targeting higher.