**Notes from Parents’ Forum 14/10/19**

The parents of over 20 pupils attended the parents’ forum at which discussion took place around a number of issues: pastoral booklets for parents bespoke to each year group; homework and an open discussion on any other issues that parents wanted to raise.

**Pastoral Booklets**

Parents spoke positively about these booklets, finding them useful. Parents understood why it took some weeks from the start of term to finalise these booklets so as to ensure up to date information about extra curricular activities was included.

**ACTION:** Key dates for Parents’ Evenings etc. on the website separate to the booklets. Information on data captures and when data will be sent home to be included.

**ACTION:** Pastoral booklets to be highlighted to new Year 7 parents at the transition evening so that they can see key information earlier.

**Homework**

Parents liked differentiated homework such as “Chilli Challenge” and showed an appreciation of the need for balance between the advantages of homework and the pressure it can put on young people and their families. There was overall agreement that the current expectations on our pupils is about right, in terms of time commitment. Parents felt that effective feedback is essential for the homework that students produce. There was agreement that homework is beneficial and that it essential that students need to be responsible for this and as independent as possible to help them develop good routines, time management and study skills.

**ACTION:** Discuss the purpose of homework with students, initially through student council and then through form tutors.

**ACTION:** Ensure that children’s books are available at the Y7 Parent Tutor Evening, including ones that showed feedback on homework.

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**General Discussion**

A number of discussion points were raised but the one that gained most agreement was around cashless payments for trips and school meals. PQ explained that moving to that for school meals would be complex but something that the school could work towards. We currently have a service level agreement with the Local Authority for our catering services. The Local Authority do not support cashless systems for school lunches. As things stand, we would have to review this at the end of the service level agreement which is in 3 years' time.

Separate to this is the systems that we have for paying for trips etc. and whether that could be done digitally. Parents who had experience of SIMS Parent spoke positively about the real-time feedback that the app gives over things such as attendance and homework.

**ACTION:** The school will explore the SIMS Parent app.

**ACTION**: The school will investigate systems to allow for cashless payments for trips etc.

**ACTION:** The slides from this event and the notes form it should appear in the parents’ section of the website.

**ACTION:** Messages that go home via School Comms with attachments should be in a pdf format.

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