

Notes from WHHS Parents' Forum: Tuesday 13th March 2018 @ 18:00

Attendees: K.Murphy (Chair, Community Governor), K.Chaplin (Parent Governor), A.Roll (Principal), A.Boot (Deputy), K.Bull, L.Chambers, K.Crockett, A.Moran, A.Moran-Nabi, L.Tellam, H.Williams, S.Parr, S.Wormaid, M.Banks, D.Bayliss, R.Dew, S.Drew, C.Ransom, M.Cole, D.Gabriel, C.Clarke, I.Toy, M.Sandli

Chair introduced the meeting welcoming and thanking attendees for coming – there was no agenda as part of the purpose of this meeting was to establish participants' views on structure of the forum going forward.

Items Discussed

1. **Update regarding maths and science block:** The Principal thanked parents for their support over the previous weeks, the school had received numerous offers of assistance and good will gestures.

Presentation:

- Outline of the current situation and plan to restore accessibility to the block following flood
- Arrangements for pupil attendance over the next few weeks
- Estimated timeline to restore usual operation – following Easter break, all pupils will be returning to a full week.
- Health & safety considerations and arrangements – addition of fire escape, electrical testing
- Currently considering allowing year 10 pupils study leave, during their mock exams
- School will continue to communicate developments and pupil arrangements with parents over the next few weeks

Queries raised:

- School insurance: it was confirmed that this was in place and that assessors had already visited – current estimates of damage £1.2 million, there will be an excess which the school will have to pay directly.
- Fire drill: there will be a fire drill, once the new fire escape is established and pupils have returned to the block.
- Can the school provide sessions on revision coaching and techniques to ensure that pupils are equipped to use time on study leave effectively? Principal confirmed that pupils had attended a revision workshop and that pupils will be supported to put together their revision plan.
- Who gets study leave, how will this be decided? Principal confirmed that it is not a blanket approach as individual pupil needs have to be taken into consideration – parent consent is also required.
- Parents were asked for feedback on the communication from the school regarding the partial school closure. General consensus was that this had been okay and that the school should continue to keep parents informed.

2. **Parents' Forum Purpose and Format:** Chair expressed that the Governing Body is keen to ensure that parents' views have a communication channel. Recent forum meetings had been cancelled due to no agenda items being received in advance, therefore views on current format of the meeting were invited.

Feedback: General consensus was that the forum should continue as it is useful to parents, cancellation of meetings had resulted in some parents still turning up and they had not been informed. Going forward, the following needs to be considered/actioned:-

- Some confusion over what the forum was and who could attend – letter to parent explaining what it is and how to participate
- Not always aware that there was a meeting – better advertisement and notice via platforms such as social media local community groups
- Where possible items should be communicated in advance of the meeting so that Leadership can provide a comprehensive response. Where this is not possible, items should still be considered so that there isn't a significant time delay – AOB should be added to the agenda.
- There needs to be a topic of interest to parents identified and advertised to them in advance
- Inclusion of the issues that pupils raise pupil forums – possibility of Head Girl and Boy attending to provide a short report
- Attendance of school staff should depend on the topic theme for the forum
- Frequency of meeting (once per term) was agreed to be sufficient
- The time of the meeting was deemed appropriate
- There should be feedback from the forum including minutes and actions taken.

3. **Possible Future Topics:** Parents were asked to identify topics which would be of interest in future meetings

- **Careers:** curriculum plans for school which stretches across all year groups rather than just years 10 and 11. Work place learning, apprenticeships, information of career events and communication of these to parents. Involvement of parents in career talks – establish what insight they can provide about their careers.
- **Pupil Wellbeing and Mental Health:** arrangements available in school to support pupils to be resilient and maintain wellbeing. Staff training and advice and support for parents to help their child with this. Strategies for dealing with exam pressure and stress.

4. **Other Items:**

- **Parents evening:** are there opportunities for additional parents evenings, being able to check in with staff regarding how their child is getting on. Principal stated that unfortunately, they can only have one parents' evening a year due to teachers pay and conditions.
- **School website:** feedback was received that this was good and easy to use, keeping it relevant and removing older items from the site would show that it was regularly updated (December items still on homepage).
- **Option routes/choices:** it was confirmed that year 8 and year 9 pupils are selecting their options this year. Some concern was raised that depending on the pathway the pupil was placed on by the school, limited the choices available to some pupils who had a strong desire to have a different combination of subjects which would be available on an alternative pathway. Leadership to pick this up outside of meeting with parent.
- **Workshops for parents:** in addition to forum, parents would like the opportunity to attend some workshops on relevant topics e.g. mental health, e-safety. Deputy informed parents that there were links to lots of relevant sites for parents on the school website – parents were not aware. Suggested that when a link such as this is added to the website, that they advertise this through social media page.

Meeting concluded.

Recommendations for action

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Responsible
1	To continue effective communication with parents regarding flood damage repair and pupil arrangements	SLT
1	Confirmation regarding study leave and revision planning	SLT
2	Letter to parent explaining what Parents' Forum is and how to participate	Governors
2	Advertisement and notice of forum dates via platforms such as social media local community groups	Governors
2	Agenda items to be communicated* in advance of the meeting so that Leadership can provide a comprehensive response	Parents
2	AOB to be added to the agenda	Governors
2	Theme topic to be identified and parents informed prior to next meeting	Governors & SLT
2	Pupil forum feedback to be presented by Head Girl and Boy	SLT
2	Forum minutes and actions distributed	Governors
3	Investigation and practicality of opportunities for parents to contribute to school activities such as career talks	SLT
4	Old information to be removed routinely from the school website	SLT
4	Follow up of option choices concern	SLT
4	Parent workshops to be identified and provided	SLT
4	New useful information available on the website to be advertised on social media	SLT

*Agenda items can be communicated to the Parents' Forum Chair (Kristina Murphy kmurphy@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk)