

Present:

Staff	
Jon Lawson (JL)	Assistant Principal
Andy Burton (AB)	Principal
Joanna March	PA to Principal

Parent	Child(ren) in Year ...
Joanne Lawson-Love	7
Stacey Hill	
Angela Nobre	9
Vicky Robertson	7
Rosetta Tickner	13
Nichola Farley-McFadyen	9

Apologies received from Penny Matthews and Stacey Hill.

1 Matters arising

- Staying safe online - JL confirmed that the Parent Information Evening will take place on 1 March 2016.
- Chelsea's Choice (a powerful drama from a national programme – topic 'grooming online') will be performed to Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils at the end of January (date to be confirmed).
- Sex education lessons – single sex format – will take place during three form times in March.
- Staff email addresses – website is updated. Information on staff email addresses provided at Parent Information Evenings.
- Sixth Form lanyards – pupils who need their dates of birth on these can request this and they will be reprinted. Sixth form pupils have also been encouraged to join the National Union of Students (£12/year).
- Show my homework – some problems with staff accounts, but these are now being sorted out.
- Groupcall parent pay – finance office need to have some training on this – letter hopefully coming out shortly with details. We hope to start using this in January.

2 Curriculum

JL distributed and explained the current curriculum model (2015/16). He then went through the proposed model for 2016/17. Main changes are:

- Well-being will no longer have a dedicated lesson in Years 7 and 8 – more time will be allocated to Maths as the Maths curriculum content is increasing. Well-being will still be delivered, but through form time or drop-down days (whole year group off time-table for a day).
- Years 10 and 11 – Short Course RS will no longer be on the curriculum, with Science picking up this extra lesson.
- Some changes to the options – all pupils will have to choose either Geography or History, as well as a language (a small number of weaker pupils will not study a language and will have extra English lessons). However, the courses for current Year 10 pupils will take priority into Year 11. JL explained that the Secretary of State for Education wants all schools to provide an Ebacc curriculum for pupils and as we

are funded by the government we have no choice but to comply. Nichola Farley-McFadyen expressed concern that time given to a language could affect results in

core subjects, with the risk of the school going into special measures. JL responded that there is now enough time in the curriculum for the core subjects but that it was difficult to compare results from a few years ago as the examinations are changing, ie results nationally came down across the board by 5% last year. Rosetta Tickner voiced her concerns about the pupils who wouldn't be able to cope with a language, as well as those pupils who may be good at English, but may not necessarily be good at learning a foreign language, an assumption schools have been foisting on parents and pupils. JL reassured forum members that those pupils who would not be able to cope would not be forced to study a language. He also stated that almost all schools and academies would now be following this model. JL confirmed that to study Triple Science, pupils would have to choose Science as one of their option choices (only level 6b/6a pupils allowed this option).

- Rosetta Tickner made the observation that there was far too little space allotted on the curriculum for IT. She stated that this is a huge mistake, especially as Britain is falling behind other countries in having a skilled IT workforce.
- The new grading system for GCSEs was discussed. Current Year 10 pupils will be graded as 1-9 in English and Maths at the end of Year 11, whereas the current Year 9 pupils will be graded 1-9 in all subjects. Concern expressed by all over confusion among teachers, pupils and employers nationally over the new grading system.

Rosetta Tickner asked about teacher recruitment – JL confirmed that nationally there is a huge shortage of teachers, particularly in Ebacc subjects, so recruitment is very difficult.

3 Communicating curriculum information to parents

JL distributed a possible format for communicating curriculum information to parents and asked for feedback on whether parents would like to receive this. Kelly Castelete suggested it would be more useful to have information on what is coming up, eg a topic being studied in history, perhaps a focus each term, communicating in bite-size chunks rather than an overwhelming amount of information once a year. It was suggested that this information could be put on the website regularly, particularly for Years 7-9.

Action: JL will discuss with SLT and work with JM to action.

Some concern expressed over Show My Homework and the fact that not all teachers use it. Members welcomed the idea that SMHW could be promoted at tutor evenings and individual pupil records could be shared at parents' evenings.

Action: JL to speak to Karen Martindale, the Assistant Principal with responsibility for SMHW.

4 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 February at 5.30 pm. It is likely that Andy Burton, the new Principal will attend, so it was agreed that there would be no set topic for the agenda. Some clarification requested on whether parents can drop off/pick up pupils on the Academy site.

Action: JL to speak to Sean Davison to clarify and report back at the next meeting.