



Minutes of Staff/Parent Forum Meeting:

24 November 2009

Present: Nick White, Hugh Wolley, Neil Humphrey, Jonathan Bartlett, Delaval Astley, Sarah Nevell, Judy Oliver, and Gillie Scoular (Minutes: Sharon Chivers)

1 **Apologies:** Nigel Flower, Sonia Radley, Alan Stromberg, Paul Gilbert, Mary Walsh

2 **IT/School Finance:**

ACTION

- IT Steering Group has now been formed
- Looking to provide Staff/Pupils access to network wherever they are
- Laptops for staff and PCs older than five years to be replaced
- Upgrade network/link with Prep School
- Major investment in IT provision for pupils in houses; By next term new – computers, wireless access, server and printers will bring all houses up to a consistent standard
- Parent Portal: School to work on this next term (password restricted)
- School website is currently being redesigned
- Archivist: looking to store records electronically in the medium term
- Library seen as 'resource centre' and not only for books but access to IT
- Long term development plans are now being put in place: Oakeley House
- 'Foundation' to be relaunched

3 **Certification System for AS Levels:**

- School took decision in 2001 to go down the line of 'full certification'
- AS is a stand alone qualification as well as half the A level qualification
- Assists with pupil motivation as all grades have to be included within the UCAS applications
- Parents notified if pupil is likely to fail
- Half the schools in country certificate/half don't
- School reference will include any extenuating circumstances
- Fair system which provides incentive for pupils
- If AS modules are repeated and result in an improved mark then the higher mark will be used for final A level certification. The original AS grade will not be changed as the A level grade effectively makes the AS grade redundant
- Pupils normally ask teachers, house staff, Director of Studies for advice
- University is only looking for three best A levels

Young Enterprise Scheme

NJW

This was run by the Registrar during hobbies time. NJW would like to see this resurrected within Economics/Business Studies.

Details of contact for Young Enterprise were forwarded by Sarah Nevell.

4 **University Entrance Requirements:**

- NJW circulates information to U6 parents only as the information provided changes yearly and it would cause confusion to pass on too early to L6 parents.
- UCAS website: applications, track, course search – gives a list of courses and this is where it states that three A Levels are required.
- Good mix of universities with good academic courses available but these will

- be based on 'grades' and not 'points'
- IB is accepted in all universities who are looking for strength in comparable subjects. The 5th Form Parents' Meeting is an excellent opportunity for parents to discuss the comparison between IB/A Levels. Mark Seldon can provide an IB Prospectus. Fewer study periods are available to pupils on the IB course but this course is not only for the high flyers. IB involves more teacher contact time
- University 'taster days' are advertised and details given to pupils but NJW finds it difficult to get pupils to go on these courses and this is usually because of exams, D of E, and summer holidays. Can we list on Website?
- AS timetable (prov) will be available early next term
- The School is currently running two general academic discussion groups: Colloquium which is aimed at nominated 6th Formers (top 25) and Junior Colloquium which is aimed at nominated 3rd/4th/5th Formers

Academic Achievement/Pupil Destinations

- All departmental achievements appear on the website
- NJW has a list of leavers' destinations but it is very difficult to track where pupils finally end up
- Leavers are asked to provide this information but out of 100 pupils only about 10 will respond
- 25% of pupils will have a GAP Year
- All but 2 pupils last year went on to further Education
- General information on leavers' destinations will soon be on the website

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.30PM

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 2 February 2010

Staff/Parent Forum Members

Please contact your representative should you wish to forward your views or comments:

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