



Minutes of Staff/Parent Forum Meeting 12th November 2007

Present: Nigel Flower, Sonia Radley, Sara Godfrey, Neil Humphrey, Gillian Sampson, Judy Oliver, Mary Walsh, Barbara Ashfield, Sarah Nevell

Apologies Received: Gareth Burnell

1. Dissemination of Forum information and feedback

Mrs Sampson raised the issue of widening the profile of the Forum by making minutes available on the School website. This would draw attention to future meetings and possibly encourage parents to approach representatives with items for discussion. Details on the website should also include email addresses of both school and parent representatives. In addition to the website forum, details could also be sent directly to parents via email or as an attachment to communication from the Headmaster at the end of term or half term.

ACTION – SR, NCF

2. Social / Meeting opportunities for Parents

General discussion was had over maintaining and increasing the opportunities to invite parents to attend School functions. NCF outlined forthcoming opportunities: Headmaster's Spring Cocktail Party would take place early in the summer term. Parents were now invited to the Junior Carol Service and a Junior Chapel Service.

Mrs Sampson raised the possibilities of arranging refreshments for parents when they came to pick up or deliver pupils at half terms and main holiday periods. NCF would look into the possibility but outlined the difficulty in arranging this, particularly when many of these times coincide with parent/teacher meetings, where refreshments are already provided.

ACTION - NCF

3. Organisation of Teacher/Parent Meetings

The question of organisation of parents' meetings had been raised with members. Parents of new third formers had found it difficult to find the appropriate members of staff as tables were not clearly labelled. NCF outlined the current system – Staff member to organise parents on arrival by handing out personal details of teaching staff and a seating plan is on display by the entrance doors. The main criticism came over the visibility of signage and NCF would investigate the possibility of improving this.

ACTION – NCF

4. Health Education

NCF raised the issue of Chlamydia testing being offered to senior pupils. At a recent schools meeting he was made aware of some schools currently running screening programmes. SR had also received information concerning Chlamydia Awareness Talks offered to senior schools. Members felt that this issue was worth pursuing, perhaps in setting up an evening lecture for 6th form where information on this and other sexual health issues might be raised and then offering the possibility of screening via the Health Centre. Dr C Ashworth, one of the School doctors, would be approached with regard to setting up a suitable programme in discussion with NCF and SR.

ACTION – NCF, SR

5. Cars and Road Safety

NCF raised the continuing concern of staff over the attitude of pupils to road safety and the observance of the School's policy on Cars. There were 18 reported accidents involving 6th form pupils last year, some of these being serious road traffic accidents. The current policy is that pupils should be over 18 and in the U6th before they are allowed to bring a car to school. Pupils may also not drive another pupil, except siblings in the "School Context". Any deviation from this and permission has to be sought from the Headmaster by parents. Staff felt the need for continued support from parents to uphold this position and to be proactive in this regard.

NCF stated that Safe Driving is one of the topics covered in the U6th lecture programme and he is keen to extend this to the L6th.

6. Broadening educational aims

Mrs Sampson raised question of broadening the scope of life skills and information included in the programme for 6th form. General discussion took place on the considerable merit of this but also the difficulties of finding time to include additional areas to the timetable. Currently topics such as money management are covered by the 6th form lecture programme and, in some cases, in tutor periods.

7. Welcoming of New Pupils

Concerns had been raised by a parent, via the Forum, that one or two new pupils to the Senior School had felt rather isolated during their first few weeks. NCF and SR outlined the settling in process, which is successful with the vast majority of new pupils, but would relay this information to House Staff. Generally this appeared to be with younger boys who would need more encouragement to integrate. Parents with personal concerns are advised to contact House Staff directly. The meeting felt that 3rd Form Tutors could be asked to take a more proactive role in ensuring that settling in problems are dealt with quickly. Staff felt that senior pupils and prefects are often very good at sorting out the worries of new pupils and are encouraged to do so within their Houses.

Staff/Parent Forum Members

Please do not hesitate to contact your representative should you wish to forward any views/comments/suggestions:

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| Barbara Ashfield | barbaraashfield@onetel.com Upper 6th Form |
| Gareth Burnell | gburnell@greshams.com |
| Sara Godfrey | sgodfrey@greshams.com |
| Neil Humphrey | nhumphrey@greshams.com |
| Sarah Nevell | sen@bacton.wanadoo.co.uk 5th Form |
| Judy Oliver | judy_oliver@talk21.com 4th Form |
| Sonia Radley | sradley@greshams.com |
| Gilliam Sampson | sampsonnorth@hotmail.com Lower 6th Form |
| Mary Walsh | mary@coopershouse.co.uk 3rd Form |