



Minutes of Staff/Parent Forum Meeting

29 September 2009

WELCOME back to Sarah Nevell as an additional U6 representative, and to Delaval Astley our new parent member for the 3rd form.

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| 1 | Matters Arising from Previous Minutes: | ACTION |
| 1.1 | Friends of Gresham's (FOGs) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacon Butty sessions on a Saturday morning• Other social events are being looked into with a Barn Dance now organised for November. | |
| 1.2 | Meet the Peripatetic Music Teachers <p>NCF spoke to Mark Jones regarding the possibility of organising a session. MJ has spoken to the staff concerned who are happy to be involved and a meeting will be organised for the end of this term.</p> | NCF/MJ |
| 1.3 | Science Modules <p>Staff confirmed that preparation for these modules is in place, pupils have sufficient time during Prep and during their lessons.</p> | |
| 2 | GENERAL | |
| 2.1 | School Website <p>The Michaelmas Term calendar was installed on the website at the end of the Summer Term but not under 'future' Calendars, it was added to the current term listing. This unfortunately caused problems for parents accessing. Apologies from NCF.</p> <p>Access to the Website: it was felt by some parent members that the information provided on the School website was not necessarily appropriate for worldwide view.</p> <p>The School is still planning on setting up the Parent Portal which will change the way information is set out on the website. We have taken on a Business Solutions & Database Manager who is currently working on the clean-up of the School's database. As soon as this has been completed, work will continue on the Parent Portal.</p> | |
| 2.2 | Communication <p>Concerns were raised about the varying levels of communication from House staff. NCF felt that this was primarily down to the individuality of each Housemaster/Housemistress but he will raise the issue at the next Senior Managers Meeting and check on their methods.</p> | NCF |
| 2.3 | GCSEs – ability to take more than one or two early <p>Parents are concerned at the large number of GCSEs pupils are expected to take and felt that taking one or two early, if the pupil is up to it, would avoid stress later on. Staff confirmed that pupils are not pushed into taking more it is purely their choice; 10 is the maximum the School requires.</p> | |

The modular system has reduced the possibility of taking GCSEs early as the course content is not provided soon enough for this to take place. Taking GCSEs early can also cause timetabling problems for both pupil and staff as there is nothing in place later on.

2.4 End of Summer Term

The following suggestions were put forward:

- Foreign Exchange for 5th Form (for those who do not do DofE)
- Work on Personal Statement including looking at organising taster days at universities as parents felt these were normally booked up by the Michaelmas term
- Work Experience
- UNIC Day/Week
- Charity Work
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NCF

NCF to discuss the above with Dr White, Director of Studies

2.5 Feedback from Parent Questionnaire

A résumé on the Parent Questionnaire will be sent out by the Headmaster. The School received responses from about a third of the number of parents and felt it was a worthwhile exercise. Some subject issues raised, but very pleased that all boxes were ticked on 'Every Child Matters' outcomes.

2.6 Certification System for AS Levels

- University will only see results that are certified
- If the result is certified it has to be declared

Staff confirmed that it is important for pupils/parents to look at the scores and not just the grades (A, B, C).

NCF

NCF to discuss with Dr White, Director of Studies

2.7 Current University Entrance Requirements

L6 Parents would like to receive the details that Dr White sends out to U6 pupils regarding university requirements. NCF explained that this is not advisable as the information changes from one year to the next.

Concerns were raised about the timing of the L6 Parents' Meeting, and parents would like to see it held before the half term break to help those with issues before it is too late in the school year. Parents **MUST** contact the School if they feel there are any issues as soon as possible and should not be waiting until the Parents' meetings to discuss it. The School compiles an interim report on all L6 which is sent out after half term in the Michaelmas Term.

2.8 Girls' Pre-Season Hockey Tour

The School's staffing/Pupil ratio for trips/tours complies with legal requirements.

When an overnight stay is required the ratio is 1:10 (we work to 1:7/8), for day visits the ratio is 1:20.

2.9 House Music

Parent representatives put forward the following comments:

- Very competitive
- Pupils under huge pressure/distressed
- Same comments received from past parents/pupils
- Very enjoyable, and NCF said that this event has gradually grown over the years and this has largely been due to the increased interest from parents. It is good fun, offers a fantastic opportunity for new pupils to bond, is much more controlled than 5 years ago, but is always frantic during the week of the performances.

House Music followed by House Party at 8.30pm where parents are invited.

3 Any Other Business

3.1 School Rules on Pupil Cars

Day pupils only over 18, weekly boarding living 60 miles away but again over 18, otherwise under special circumstances (these requests to the Headmaster)

See rules quoted in the 'Pastoral Care' booklet

3.2 6th Form Girls' Uniform

A big thank you from the Girls' House staff who appreciate how much effort pupils and parents have put into making the new uniform such a success. The L6 and U6 look girls look fantastic and all felt it was a much better advertisement for the School and for its pupils.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.30pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: tbc

Staff/Parent Forum Members

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

Delaval Astley	woodfarm@macunlimited.net	3rd Form
Gillie Scoular	lawluvvie@btinternet.com	4th Form
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