



## **STAFF – PARENT FORUM OVERVIEW**

The Staff-Parent Forum at Gresham's School is a new venture which commenced in September 2006. The forum has a parent representative from each year group. The staff are Mr N Flower (Deputy Head), Mrs S Radley (Head of Boarding), Mr N Humphrey (Head of DT), and from September 2007, Gareth Burnell (Head of 6th Form), and Mrs Sara Godfrey (Modern Languages). Meetings have been held each term and a wide variety of issues have been discussed. Below are outlined examples of the issues discussed and changes made in the academic year 2006 2007.

### **BOARDING:**

- The range and scope of weekend activities have been widened.
- The opportunity to extend the opening hours of Dave's Diner at weekends is being explored.
- The house staff are looking to provide more information for the parents of full boarders.

### **INFORMATION:**

- The school has agreed to publish the emails of house staff and tutors for brief correspondence.
- An academic diary has been developed to include examination dates and coursework deadlines.
- Travel details to away sporting fixtures are now available on the school website.

### **FOOD:**

- The food available in Dave's Diner has been reviewed and now includes fresh fruit, smoothies, filled rolls and muffins. A fresh water dispenser has been installed.
- Parents have attended school lunches and agree with the staff that the quality of food provided is good.
- The school is currently reviewing the amount of food wasted by pupils, especially during breakfast.

### **SOCIAL OCCASIONS:**

The opportunities for parents to meet socially at the school have been explored. At the present time, the forum does not wish to pursue fundraising events but has welcomed an increasing number of social opportunities to include:

- Refreshments provided in big school between sections of the house music competition.
- The new format for sport's day.
- The headmaster's spring cocktail party.

**PARTIES:**

The staff are concerned regarding the arrangements of some parties held by pupils. The parent members of the forum acknowledge that the school's role can be difficult and would fully support them in their comments that:

- Where possible parties for pupils should be held during school holidays.
- The availability of alcohol at all parties should be supervised by parents.
- Parents are advised to check that parties are occurring with the knowledge of the host pupil's parents.

The above list is not exclusive but we hope that it provides a flavour of the discussions this year. The members of the forum would welcome further topics for consideration. Individuals can be contacted directly or via email.

**PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:**

Upper Sixth Mrs B Ashfield  
Lower Sixth Mrs G Sampson  
Fifth Form Mrs S Nevell  
Fourth Form Mrs J Oliver  
Third Form Mrs M Walsh