

Notes of Parental Consultation Meeting Tuesday 3 October 2017

1 **Welcome**

Mr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Notes from previous meeting held on 3.10.17**

- This meeting has been widely advertised via FB, Twitter, MILK, School Comms, calendar via school website, pop up on the school website.
- Mr Smith to ask Mr Slavin, Chair of Governors, to attend the next meeting of PCG.
- MILK has been rolled out to all students.
- Ofsted parent view: to date the school has received 947 responses / 97% of parents say they would recommend the school to other parents/students.
- Homework: discussions in school about this at the moment.
- One parent stated that their child does use the library most evenings to do homework and further stated that homework is not impacting on home life currently.

Mr Smith circulated the "Plan on a Page" featuring the main school priorities for 2017-18, which are:

- School culture, ethos, behaviour and attitudes
- Staff Development
 - The school is investing in its staff
 - Mr Smith stated that it is difficult at the moment, including nationally, to recruit maths and science teachers
- Curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment:
 - Mr Bridgman has been conducting a review of the curriculum and how many lessons students get in each subject area.
 - The school is also looking at the timings of the school day with a view to changing these.
 - With reference to teaching and learning, the students who don't make the most progress are disadvantaged students / PP students / FSM, SEND students, boys.
- Additional developments:
 - School is expecting an Ofsted inspection and the school is preparing in advance of this.
 - Governors are revisiting their 3-year rolling development programme. There is currently lots of work going on in the background to develop their work in supporting the school. Governors need to be certain that the Headteacher and staff are doing what they need to do.
 - Campus Whitehaven – Mr Smith stated that there is extraordinary pressure in school on staff working with this development.
 - Mr Smith said that engagement with parents/carers and other responsible adults is really important, but not as successful as we want it to be at the moment.
 - School Budget – managing resources is difficult but the school's financial house is in order.

3 **Campus Whitehaven update**

Mr Smith reported that:

- the project is about 4 weeks behind schedule at the moment, but that the anticipated completion date remains in place.
- Joint meetings have taken place between St Benedict's and Mayfield, particularly recently regarding facilities management discussions regarding HR, employment contracts, premises management. Both schools are looking to work towards economies of scale.
- There is no major risk to the project. Handover is scheduled for August with school term to start on the new site in September 2018.
- Students are currently having tours of the new school on Friday afternoon courtesy of our contractors, Wates.
- School is over-subscribed. September 2017 – pupil admission number for Year 7 in September 2018 is 200, and the school has received a total of 367 applications for places. Governors will need to meet to apply the admissions criteria.

4 **Plan on a Page**

Circulated above.

5 **Proposed changes to the timing of the school day**

- Mr Bridgman, Assistant Headteacher, was invited to discuss the proposed changes to the timing of the school day and to discuss thoughts around the curriculum.
- Purpose of the review of the curriculum and school day changes:

- Current model of timetable is not as flexible in delivering the curriculum to the children.
- Opportunity to build in CPD for the staff to further enhance the provision we make for our students.
- Information:
 - Current model with a 2-week timetable came about because as a school we could not fit everything in the required taught curriculum to one week. Also, the Diocese requires the school to build in 10% of RE teaching per week to satisfy the faith aspect of the school.
 - Heads of department need more time to meet with each other. If the school decides to close one day early – school would finish 1 hour earlier and then staff would stay on in school for training (CPD). This could be arranged so that every other week staff are trained and each second week in the cycle departments would have 90 minutes of time to do what they want in terms of meeting together, planning, etc. Mr Bridgman stated that the school wants to further invest in its staff and this is an ideal way to do this.
 - Mr Bridgman discussed the proposed timing of the school day with a proposed suggestion of having 28 x 55 minute lessons instead of the current 25 x 1 hour lessons. This would provide 2 early finishes. Students will therefore get more teaching and more time in lessons – 25 minutes per week overall.
 - The proposal is also that the school day would start at 8.30am and finish at 3.15pm, or at 2.20pm on the shorter days. However, first indications from staff are that there may be issues for some regarding an earlier start time in terms of their own child care arrangements, and travel times to work. Mr Smith stated that all these variables will need to be taken into account and that other models for the timing of the school day will also be considered in that if we need to start at the same time as is current, then we can shift the finish time to later in the day.
 - 28 lessons per week allows the school to also meet the required 10% for RE teaching per week.
 - 28 lessons per week would also give us a 1-week timetable – staff have said that they would prefer to have a 1-week timetable.
 - There would still have X and Y sides of the curriculum.
 - Mr Bridgman stated that he had had 200 responses to a questionnaire from key stage 3 students.
 - Timewise we need to tell the bus companies by Christmas 2017 for changes in the school day.

Curriculum time:

- Mr Bridgman discussed curriculum time for students at the different key stages.
- We are aiming for balance and breadth for the curriculum.
- If it is decided that we finish early on 2 days of the week, it would make sense for parents to have these days as consecutive days.
- Mr Smith asked for views on the proposals. Parents said that from 2018 new parents will just accept it. Any possible issues would come from existing parents. However, it was thought that because some parents work shifts, and parents work generally, students are going home on their own anyway. It was thought that after school provision would be appreciated for some students. Parents thought that from their point of view an earlier start to the day would not be an issue. It was recognised that staff views would need to be taken into account.
- Mr Smith stated that he is currently in consultation with the staff / KS3 students regarding the proposals. Mr Smith is also in discussions with the teachers' professional associations regarding these proposals.
- The Governing Body are due to discuss the proposals at their next meeting on 7th December.
- Mr Smith will write to parents following the governors' meeting on 7 December, and will consult with parents/carers for their views using MILK.
- Following all the consultation with all stakeholders, a decision will follow very quickly.

6 Any Other Business:

- Concern was expressed at the cost of music lessons, which have rocketed. This concern was noted.
- Mr Smith will invite Mr Slavin, the Chair of Governors to the next meeting.
- If parents have any other feedback on any issues they wish to draw to Mr Smith's attention, please contact Mrs Green, PA to the Headteacher at the school.

- 6 Confirmation of next meeting**
To be announced in the Spring term.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.55pm.