

## Notes of Parental Consultation Meeting Tuesday 13 March 2018

- 1 **Welcome**  
Mr Smith welcome everyone to the meeting.
- 2 **Notes from previous meeting held on 30.1.18**  
IPS took meeting through notes of the last meeting

### **Homework feedback from point made at last meeting:**

LA responsible for teaching and learning in the school and Mr McGeehin and Mrs Alfaro tasked with doing some research about quantities of homework, consistency, and in particular the factors that might have led in different numbers of homeworks for the parent who had raised the query.

Reason for differences has been split classes. Lot more homework for split class (one class with more than one teacher). Lines of communication between the two teachers where staff share classes need improvement. It was noted that the school does try to avoid split classes.

**Quality of homework:** audit of all year groups in Years 7 – 6<sup>th</sup> form has been undertaken. Feedback received and Mr McGeehin has been happy with number of staff who have engaged with the new homework system via Milk.

**Quantities of homework:** Mr McGeehin has been pleased with the results over the old planner system. The school is currently looking at the analytics of the evaluation of homework, i.e. who is setting which homework, and who within each department is setting homework. This will provide a QA system in school. The subject leader is responsible for when the homework is set, how often it happens and the quality of the homework set.

It was noted that Mr Bridgman had introduced a new system for when homework is set and when it is due in. It was recognised that this has caused some confusion. When in the new school, we will be back on a one week timetable, and homework timetable will be more traditional.

Mr Smith pointed out that we are still working on how we communicate the homework timetable to parents/carers in order to ensure it is understandable and easy to access.

### **Methodology of how we think we should be setting homework:**

Some homeworks are open ended e.g. take-away homework in the English department. It was recognised that we need to give time bound homeworks.

Mr Smith and Mrs Alfaro, the Director of Teaching & Learning Quality are scheduled to meet on Friday 16 March with subject leaders where Mrs Alfaro will brief colleagues about findings so far and in order for subject leaders to reflect on this. It was recognised that there is quite a lot of work still to do by the end of this term. We are anticipating the new timetable and new arrangements for homework.

MILK app: parents made the point that they cannot always get feedback on whether the homework has been handed in as the teacher does not always let parent know with a message back. **Action: Mr Redhead to send a message to staff to be consistent about sending messages re homework to parents.**

Mr Smith reminded the meeting about governors' work, Campus Whitehaven, and the school budget. Mr Smith spoke in brief detail about the budget:

- School's annual budget is about £4.5m
- Mrs Lowrey as Business Director works with the Senior Leadership Team and governors in order to set the budget.

### **Admissions to School:**

The school continues to be over-subscribed in all year groups Year 7 – 11. Mrs Green explained to parents the admissions process to the school when an enquiry is received. It was noted that the school can be directed by the Local Authority to take students and admit them in special circumstances such as students who have refugee status or for students who are in the looked after system.

### **Music lessons:**

Recognising this was a significant issue raised at the last meeting, it was noted that Mrs Lowrey, Business Director for the school, is still working on this.

### **Curriculum and timing of the school day:**

Governors met to discuss the proposals and all the issues the school had been asked to consider. At their last full meeting, governors did unanimously agree with the recommendations made, as this was the best possible solution. It was noted that governors followed the process all the way through and received updates.

### **Campus Whitehaven:**

Information about the delayed opening of the school had been in the press. Mr Smith investigated why this happened as there is a communications strategy for the project and this had not been followed, as all stakeholders had not been notified of this decision. The builders have still not informed the school as to whether the school will be ready in September or October half term. Delays have been a result of the recent poor weather conditions.

Mr Smith briefly discussed the recent news reports in the local press where the elected Mayor, Mr M Starkie, had provided an idea to support the occupation of the "old" St Benedict's buildings for the students in Whitehaven Academy. It was noted that Mr Smith and Mr Slavin, Chair of Governors, have not discussed this with Mr Starkie. There have been no meetings about this. A demolition strategy is in place and is all part of the bigger picture for the campus – the whole project cannot be completed if the current school buildings are not demolished.

It was noted that the school will be planning an event for former students and community to come and look around the site before it is demolished.

### **Timing of the school day:**

All feedback from all stakeholders had been taken into account and the new timings of the school day have been confirmed. Parents and carers, staff and governors will shortly receive a letter confirming matters. Bus companies have been informed of the changes. Review of how the new timings are working will take place towards the end of the autumn term.

### **Discussion:**

One parent raised the issue of students and chewing gum. Her child had recently come home from school with chewing gum on blazer from the top of the desk.

Parents asked if the school would look at banning chewing gum on site in the new build.

**Action: Mr Smith confirmed that this matter will be discussed.**

### **3 PCG – Name of this Group (Mr Smith)**

#### **Website page**

Mr Smith showcased a sample website page for parents with a new suggested name for this Group. Parents were in agreement of the new website page and new title for this group.

**Action: New name for this group confirmed as Parent / Carer Council.**

### **4 Homework Feedback (Mr McGeehin)**

Covered in matters arising above.

### **5 Confirmation of next meeting**

Tuesday 15 May 2018 at 5.00pm

### **6 Any Other Business**

There was no further business, and Mr Smith thanked parents and carers again for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 6.00pm.