

Parent Voice Minutes 26th September, 2023

Attended: H McVicar (H MV), N Cairns (NC), R Swann, K Godfrey, L Weatherall, J Tongue, A Poole (7), C Midgeley (7), J Nightingale-Newton, D Field (10), K Shorten (7)
Apologies: L Taylor (7), Alison Hole (8/13)

Agenda item	Item raised	Discussion point	Action required	Outcome (to date)
Minutes from previous meeting	Toilet issues Internal Truants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new toilet pass system has been introduced and there was feedback from parents at PV that their children now feel happy and safe to use the toilets. There is a small minority of students that are not happy with this system but the vast majority understand, abide by it and are being positive about it. • Last year there were issues with (older) students entering younger students' classes; the PV view was that this has mainly calmed down and the new toilet pass policy seems to have helped but there are still some incidents. Students entering other classes may lead to suspension. 	SLT to continue to monitor and action.	Toilet system established and monitored.
General school	Start to academic year	<p>HMV talked about Every Lesson Visits which are now in place, in which every lesson during the day is visited by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Heads of Section, Head of Department (HoD) or staff with leadership responsibilities to carry out a student and staff check in and praise good behaviour. This seems to be going well although is very resource intensive.</p> <p>A parent asked if the teachers know when to expect the visit as parents gave various anecdotes that the behaviour of the teachers AFTER a visit was very different in terms of their behaviour and use of language than it was before. HMV confirmed no, teachers don't know when visits will happen and there are a small number of lessons where there's been no visit, purely down to available resource.</p> <p>There is also a new Quality Assurance framework being developed and launched next week with HMV and K Kelly and HMV will be going into lots of lessons to help with and ensure implementation.</p>	SLT to update as required.	QA Cycle established.
	Inclusion strategy	<p>HMV reported that whilst improvements have been observed, we have high expectations and remain unsatisfied about the impact of some parts of the new inclusion strategy. The school continue to look for how they can improve and commissioned the Bolton Impact Trust who are independent and spent the day in school- reviewing our strategy and its impact. They observed behaviour before school, in lessons and during social times. They also conducted a series of panels across the entire student body, including SEN and high achieving students. They also met with some parents. They will now write a report and will also return to help implement their findings and proposals and also will support with the inclusion resource centre.. BIT across a wide range of schools, such as across the Outwood Academies etc. and conduct work for the DfE.</p>	SLT to provide an update on the Inclusion strategy at next meeting.	<p>Inclusion strategy reviewed and relaunched January 2024.</p> <p>Pastoral Handbook in place to support consistency.</p> <p>BIT visit January 2024.</p>

	LPPA – Parents' Award	NC confirmed the assessment had taken place on 22.09 and the assessor has met with lots of stakeholders including parents. The school has passed the assessment and the report is expected very soon. NC will be communicating this across the school in the near future and will make the report available for all to read. The school will continue to look at how we can improve.	NC to communicate findings.	
	Tannoy system and communication	This is in place but not yet up and running.		Training on Tannoy December 2024 and implementation issues identified. Planned launch Feb/March 24.
	Postcard of Praise and award points	A parent asked what this was as they can't find anything on the website and other parents talked about it being in the booklet on info relating to the reward system. HMV explained what it was, and that the praise system is also being developed further, and has asked N Connolley to look at the departments and their awarding of points to students, especially re consistency etc. Parents asked about points being awarded for being involved in eg school sports' teams, which is supposed to happen. HMV also talked about praise lunches and where the language department held a breakfast for certain students whom they felt merited it. A parent asked about points bands thresholds as their daughter exceeded the gold threshold but didn't receive the award.	NC to pick up on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sports points awarding • info on website HMV to follow up specific student's threshold query.	
Teaching and Learning	Parental Engagement in Learning	There are several activities on the school calendar, including a Parent Info evening for Y11, and a Post-18 parent info evening on 17.10.23.	PV to consider other ways the school could involve parents in our development.	
	Options and other school info on the website	The school website doesn't appear to have been updated around Y9 options and it refers to 2 years ago. Another parent confirmed that Y6 and Y7 info needs updating, too. HMV said that parents will always get the information sent through and that school are looking at how they use the website and are also looking at social media. There has been some previous reticence about social media and some parents are not aware there's a twitter/ X feed. There will be a move now to look at setting up a face book information page. Two parents explained they have experience in this and have learned what to do so can possibly help out. They explained that the transition from Y6 to Y7 is one where there's been lots of information in Y6, and then very little in Y7. A parent had to ask for a map of the school as this was no longer on the website and their child wanted to understand which room their lessons would be in, to help their anxiety and focus on the lesson content before returning in Sept. Other desired information on the site was discussed, including how to report sickness and other absences; there was a request for staff email addresses to be displayed. HMV	NC acknowledged and is currently working with the team to update the website and remove out-dated or unwanted material. HMV to action sharing of contact details	Development of Pastoral handbook for all stakeholders. Development of new website in progress.

		encourages parent to go via pastoral support staff, Heads of Departments, Heads of Section and form tutor, all of whose details will be shared.		
Y7 info evening		Feedback was that this evening was very useful and the transition has been really good. HMV confirmed she's looking at how this can be further developed.		
Telephone call home		The parents felt this had been conducted – and received – positively and there was significant engagement with this.	HMV to feedback to all staff	
Form Tutor role		A parent asked for clarification on the actual role and responsibilities of a form tutor (FT); HMV confirmed it's to deliver Personal Development curriculum, albeit in half an hour. There's also a big push on all staff getting to know pupils across the entire school, not just in form, but in form especially. PD are carrying out quality assurance on the tutor work. A parent was concerned that the FT should be listening to the student, not just passing them on to other staff, which HMV confirmed although a FT may also advise a student to talk to HoD or other staff depending on the concerns raised.	HMV to feedback to Pastoral/PD team.	
Food Tech		A suggestion was made about school buying the ingredients and parents paying a fixed amount on parent pay. This would mean that parents are not then left with food that they're unlikely to use again, reduce wastage, and would allow some students to participate whose parents are refusing to buy ingredients on the grounds above. It also removes the last minute supermarket dash. Free School Meal students already have their ingredients provided. This was deemed to be a good idea and enthusiastically received.	NC to pick up with DT staff to look at implementing.	
Inset Days		A parent asked why all the inset days were before Christmas and whether there are higher absences at other times when there's not an inset day. HMV explained that inset days are to a certain extent limited to avoid exam season, including exam prep and mocks. There is also a lot of training across the year with Netherthorpe staff having training every Tuesday until 17:00 and also at the beginning of the school year, as opposed to on ad hoc one-off days.		
Y11 Parent Info evening		This was well received and the info eg around timelines of mocks etc was very useful for parents and students; HMV confirmed that around 100 parents turned up and Y11 has been very engaged since the start of the new school year.		
Revision guides		A parent asked which boards are being studied as their child is very keen to get started on the revision guides and she does not want to discourage this whilst they're keen! HMV confirmed she'd just approved lots of orders for revision guides and most departments have started their ordering. School will be putting these on the website for Y10 – Y13 inclusive, and the guides will also be on Parentpay soon. More infor shared in booklet for parents. There was also a suggestion about being able to sell second-hand ones from previous years.	NC to ensure info is on website and ParentPay: RS to look at how used books can be put into circulation	

	Homework	<p>Parents asked about what homework expectations are both in terms of volume and also the expectation of homework being looked at and appreciated, and some talked about where significant effort had been put in by students and staff either didn't engage or paid little, if any, attention to what had been prepared. There was also discussion that this was similar for work for transition into 6th form. One parent talked about extensions being given to deadlines for a few, even though many have completed the work in the original deadlines.</p> <p>HMV has started talking to HoDs about homework and extensions for non-completed work and also confirmed that this is a conversation for all teachers, across the school, about the importance of looking at homework. Y12 transition work is a useful exercise and introduces them to concepts to be covered.</p> <p>A parent wondered about volume of homework as several children appear to have not received much homework. HMV explained how the policy has changed, ie homework is about embedding and retrieval of the in-lesson learning so should only be set then as opposed to setting homework purely for its own sake, with the exception being English and Maths, where there is weekly refresher homework being set. One parent said their child has learned that if they finish the work in school, they'll have less homework which has changed their attitude and they now knuckle down more in lesson.</p> <p>The overall feedback was positive and the short bites of homework seems to work well, e.g. for Spanish. The volume of homework also fits in very well with most students' extracurricular commitments, which are important for mental, physical and social wellbeing.</p>	HMV/NCI to discuss at leadership briefings	<p>Leaders updated and information shared with all staff on HT Update.</p> <p>New Homework policy in draft format.</p>
Extra-Curricular	Parental engagement events	Parent Voice in the Community (PVC) is going to Poolsbrook next half-term and then to Mastin Moor.		Due to flooding, tis was postponed. PV in the community will be hosted at Poolsbrook Community Centre after Half term.
	Personal Development (PD)	<p>There is a new Head and Deputy Head of PD who are looking at what can be developed, and also at the what's on guide, which can be accessed from the parent's section on the website and is updated regularly. This includes PE tournaments; parents asked about the training sessions to be included, though, too. NC line manages PE and will pick this up.</p> <p>If other students want activities that are not currently in school, they are encouraged to tell staff and school will look at what can be run.</p>	NC to pick up re communication of PE training sessions on Satchel.	
	School trips	Parents asked if ski trips and other trips will be taking place; HMV confirmed that every child in every year group will get the chance to participate in an extracurricular school trip. Parents asked if the Alton Towers trip could go on a different day, or set off earlier, as students got to go on very few rides. HMV confirmed it's always the most popular trip and that buses cannot leave earlier as students come to school on the bus and this has to still		

		happen. School is looking at other activities for July 2024 that may enable more students to do more i.e. PGL trip.		
	450 th anniversary	RS confirmed that this is taking place next summer on 27 th July and all contributions of help will be gladly received; please email RS on Rachel.j.swann@gmail.com or on RSwann@cvt.org.uk	RS to follow up. Parents who can support to contact RS direct.	
AOB		It was great to see many new faces, especially parents of students in lower year groups. We'd love to encourage even more parents and carers to attend PV.		