

Parent Voice Minutes 13th February, 2024

Attended: H McVicar (HMV), N Cairns (NC), R Swann, K Godfrey, L Weatherall, A Poole, C Midgley, J Nightingale-Newton, K Shorten, A Hole
Apologies: V Newton

Agenda item	Item raised	Discussion point	Action required	Outcome (to date)
<p>Minutes from previous meeting</p>	<p>Toilet issues – HMV</p> <p>Inclusion strategy – HMV</p> <p>New QA process – HMV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMV confirmed that not much has changed since the last PV meeting; all toilets are available and operational during break, and before and after and during lessons they are monitored and supervised. This has led to staff contacting some parents / guardians and some medical issues have been picked up, and other patterns identified. Safeguarding issues and complaints have all been resolved. <p>A parent asked when is the best time to visit the toilet as some students need it more than others. The response was that 15 min after breaks and dinner, no student should need to go; if a student requires a medical pass, this is fine and simple to obtain on request. Y7s have now also settled into the new routines and timings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolton Impact Trust has been in and the inclusion strategy was relaunched after Christmas. Even though nothing has actually changed, there has been some resistance to what is seen to be change. Training is ongoing with staff, for consistent implementation, and there is now a pastoral handbook to ensure consistency across all staff, which can also act as an easily and quickly accessible reference point. This is still being developed further; it has been gone through with students in assembly and both students and parents / guardians will be receiving their own copies next academic year. <p>There has been a spike in suspensions, which was expected after the relaunch; in general, however, things are calmer than they have been but we still have areas requiring improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been some inconsistencies across staff, mainly amongst recently qualified staff who have been more rigid in applying principles. This is, however, now starting to be smoothed out and the outcomes are starting to come through. Minerva Learning Trust (MLT) has access to a large number of secondary schools in the Trust, especially in South Yorkshire, and has raised the point that the systems in Cavendish Learning Trust (CLT) are the same in MLT but there's a bigger staff capacity at MLT to implement; CLT are now looking at staffing structures in school to allow more follow ups and therefore more consistent implementation and subsequent action. <p>To be noted, the recent flu bug has also caused behavioural issues as we have seen an increase in supply staff who may not be fully up to speed with CLT systems etc.</p>	<p>Pastoral Handbook for Parent/Carers and Students.</p>	<p>First draft completed and shared with a group of stakeholders for feedback.</p>

	<p>Food Tech ingredients – HMV</p> <p>Y7 CATS & reading tests – NC</p> <p>Revision books – RS</p> <p>Pre-loved Uniform – NC</p> <p>Website – NC</p> <p>PE notifications & general ‘what’s on’ communication – HMV</p> <p>Homework – HMV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School is looking at how to resource paying for ingredients rather than parents providing, often small quantities of things that won’t be used again; a parent confirmed that Heritage use Parent Pay. A new food technical has been appointed and the canteen is being looked at as how to source for food tech supplies. • There has been some extensive work done by GL Assessment, who oversee the assessments, and there are now some reports available; one is for CATs and is parent-based, and there is a teacher report for reading. These will be shared soon. There will be a message going to Y7 parents / guardians and NC is interested in hearing the feedback once the reports have been received. This review of approach has come directly from Parent Voice and NC thanked those present. There will be an overarching online survey going out to parents / guardians to cover all reports. This will be sent out after half-term. • RS to pick up with NC re second hand book provision from previous students • Pre-loved uniform is going to the Edge Centre in Staveley where this is good take up. • The plan is to start from scratch with a totally new website; parents requested a decent search functionality and an up to date calendar as the key features needed. • PE communication is still not being updated both for core PE lessons (ie what to bring etc) and for fixtures. There was one notification on student notices but only the one; it needs to be more often and more regular. Student notices go out on a Monday and the tutors also share these with students; HMV will be asking to get the What’s On Guide, which is published at the start of the year, to be updated and sent home, and student notices to be published to parents on the Friday before the following week. • Y9 parents / guardians commented that they’re still not seeing much homework and are concerned that Y10 GCSE work will be a big step up and there’s currently little preparation for this leap. Y7 parents / guardians are happy with the amount being given at 3-4 pieces per week, and consistent quizzes for science and MFL. Y8 appear to be consistently getting lots of English and occasional maths. HMV confirmed that the intention is that the recall and retrieval of information, key for GCSE, is being done in school lessons. There is a new homework policy which has been drafted and is currently with the Heads of Departments 	<p>HMV to meet Head of DT and Food suppliers</p> <p>Stakeholders to feedback on use of reports.</p> <p>NC to explore second hand revision/ study resources</p> <p>NC to update regarding website</p> <p>HMV and NC to discuss with Head of PE and reception team.</p> <p>Homework policy review.</p>	<p>Meeting has taken place with Head of DT and Bidfood. Plans for this scheme to be implemented at KS3 September 2024</p> <p>Internal and external website review</p> <p>New homework policy distributed in school.</p>
<p>General school</p>	<p>Buses to school</p>	<p>There were several queries submitted about both the cost of the buses to and from school as well as being able to pay without cash. HMV explained that she is currently going through a tendering process where an external body, supported by the Department for Education, is running the process; cashless systems have been requested – both previously and now in this tender, and school has even offered to pay for a machine to go on the bus. Systems have been looked at previously but Johnsons were unable to offer in the past; Johnsons have always been reliable on the whole, although other suppliers are now starting to open up, too.</p>	<p>HMV to update at next meeting on progress on bus payments</p>	

		<p>Buses are the single biggest cost to the school and are already subsidised. Costs haven't increased for several years and they had to be increased for school budget control reasons. The prices are still under the B-line costs for public service buses.</p> <p>There were questions about whether MLT partners could be used; their suppliers are local to their schools and this won't benefit CLT.</p> <p>School is generally moving to a fingerprint system and has been paying for this for some time; school is aiming to put this in place in September 24, if not earlier. The training is paid for, letters will go out to parents / guardians and people can opt out if they wish. The system is secure, data will not be shared and will be protected, and infection control processes are part of the system.</p>		
	Parent Voice in the Community	An attendee asked if they'd been well attended; the most recent planned one was due to take place in Poolsbrook but there was flooding in the venue so it's had to be postponed. NC is in the process of confirming the venue is OK and a date will be confirmed. HMV confirmed that the previous event in the community - Staveley – have been well attended by those who may not otherwise attend school.	PV in the Community – date tbc by HMV / NC	
	Community Engagement Activity	<p>There is a new Staveley Multi Agency Action Group that's been set up and includes housing, fire, Remedy (restorative justice), etc and is specifically looking for things that can be offered to the community, especially the children.</p> <p>NC's Family Engagement Nights and the crafternoon are going well and being well attended. The new Head of Performing Arts, Mr Flowers, started in Jan 24; a former actor, he has links with The Crucible in Sheffield and has been teaching for 20+ years. He is working with students across the year groups and the intention is to get all KS3 (years 7-9 inclusive) playing a musical instrument, eg African drums, ukulele, keyboard etc. He is also getting the peripatetic teachers to come together as a group, and asking parents to also have a go. Students will be encouraged to be signed up for 1:1 music lessons regardless of family income. Drama club are doing Mamma Mia and the plan is to do a musical one year and then a play the next.</p>	HMV to update at next meeting on progress of SMAG	
	School closure – communication	When school had to close for the snow there was some confusion around children eating and by the time some buses got back, it was nearly 3pm. The canteen had shut and, despite the message from the bus company, some buses didn't actually arrive until 2pm. Netherthorpe, as a rule, always tries to shut AFTER lunch but the bus provider currently operates a first come, first serve basis for provision of buses. HMV confirmed this was a learning point for all.	HMV to look at how this is mitigated for future closures.	
	Parental Engagement in Learning	There are several activities on the school calendar, including eg a Parent Info evening for Y11, and a Post-18 parent info evening on 17.10.23.		
Teaching and Learning	Y13 UCAS forms	Health & social mock exams were taking place when forms had to be in, which led to a form not being reviewed before being submitted; HMV confirmed that forms are requested to be in from students in October, even though the UCAS deadline is Jan. This is to avoid any conflicts with mocks etc.	HMV to look at UCAS process re possible Y12 start for support	

	<p>There was also an expression of levels of support and a lack of interview skills being offered for UCAS; HMV confirmed that UCAS support is now run through form tutors except for those students who are looking at specialist options such as medicine, veterinary, dentistry and Oxbridge, where students received a more specialised support. This is the first time that form tutors have run the UCAS process – there was positive comments on Mrs West’s input. There was a suggestion to start UCAS support in Y12; HMV to look at.</p>		
Disruption in lessons	<p>There is still a lot of disruption in one class, which on occasion can come down to 1 child. Other children are not seeing some children receive consequences for their poor behaviour and feel that it’s simply learning time being taken away from all. There was an acknowledgement that the child raised has additional needs but the perception of the other children who are still simply seeing chaos. HMV is aware of this particular student as there is a specific TA in place and the protocol is for the student in question to attend the Hub. The incidents discussed may have been when teaching assistants were pulled in to be invigilators at a time of many mock exams across the school.</p> <p>Other parents / guardians felt that things were getting better, eg asking the whole form to report to receive positive recognition. There are challenges still on consistency of the delivery of the behavioural protocol, especially in Y7; when a whole class is on report, whilst it may externally appear as negative, it does have a positive impact on the whole class; staff do complete the positive side of the card.</p> <p>Specifically looking at the value of respect, HMV asked for staff nominations for students who had shown respect and therefore to be acknowledged and rewarded. She has been inundated with nominations. The main issue is around staff consistency and the pastoral handbook, discussed earlier in the evening, will help with this; staff will be held to account and it will be easier for senior staff to identify where support is needed.</p> <p>There was a very positive response to the positive phone calls home and postcards of praise are still being used; senior leadership is promoting and educating all staff on what is available to them for both negative and positive feedback.</p>		
Ability groups & streaming	<p>An attendee asked if this was the case in every lesson in certain year groups; currently it’s only for maths. Y7 has confirmed that they are enjoying lessons more as they are learning with others at the same ability. NC is planning ’24-’25 curriculum and looking at different groups for English and maths. KS3 is currently with their form group for all lessons as ability streaming is only available for maths & DT. The learning performance, from a parents’ / guardians’ point of view depends on the mix of children and the view was expressed that being with the same learning ability helps the consistency of the lesson direction. Other parents / guardians echoed that their children were bored in certain subjects and had gone from being positive and enthusiastic to disengaged.</p> <p>There was a question about setting for Y9 in science; there have been some groups created but it’s still mixed ability. The view was expressed that, whatever school does do, don’t then change it mid year. Streaming / moving to different groups also exposes the students to different friendship groups and</p>		

		<p>peers, which when students then take up their options for Y10 & Y11 GCSEs, means their chances of knowing people in the lessons is higher.</p> <p>Bolsover uses mixed year form groups which appears to have positive feedback. Currently in Netherthorpe, Y12 & Y13 are mixed and wider mixing across all years has bene discussed; there are pros and cons. The question was raised about prefects attending forms / other year groups; some of the prefects have specific year group responsibility and HMV acknowledged that this isn't as developed as they'd like.</p>		
Extracurricular	External diversionary activity	<p>Following on from SMAG, there is some money available for diversionary activities out of school. HMV suggested boxing etc – attendees gave a list of other possible organisations and activities which HMV will investigate further. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme wheels • Dawn Osbox • Dance Days in Dronfield Studio 44 • Qualitas do a lot at Duckmanton school • Samba Sports • George's Musical Theatre & Stagecoach • Chesterfield Rugby Club 		
	School event	There was discussion of the date – tbc as it coincides with a large cheerleading comp where many Netherthorpe students are likely to be participating.	RS to pick up with HMV on dates & format	Decision to postpone due to merger
AOB	None	The meeting finished at 19:41		