

## Parent Voice Minutes 13 October 2020

**Attended:** H McVicar- (H MV), D Hulbert (11), R Swann (11), R Vernon (8 / 11), A Vanhoorebeek (8), A Morley, Mr & Mrs Cahill (8), N Jordan (13) J Rhodes (9/11), E Mougou Kovacs (11), S Gee (8), D Duce, S Brown, J Whitaker (13), H Payton, E Howarth, K Godfrey, C Wragg, A Kennan, V Newton, J Tongue

**Apologies:** L Maddison, L Wootton (11), T Potter, J Ebbage, D Rutter

Agenda item	Item raised	Discussion point	Action required	Outcome (to date)
General school issues	1. Return to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV updated PV on the efforts of staff and students returning to school and expressed pride in the efforts of all coping with the changes, thanking parents for support</li> <li>• PV praised the quality of communication from school and stated that all concerns had been dealt with. Thanks expressed to SLT.</li> </ul>		
	2. Kitchen situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV explained the difficulties obtaining sandwiches for FSM students and others without food from home, after the enforced isolation of canteen staff. Thanks were given to families for their support.</li> <li>• Canteen staff are due to return to work on 14 October and school are considering continuing with the alternative sandwich provider because students prefer their product and it frees up kitchen staff to provide additional food</li> <li>• Any child without food was provided with sandwiches, not just FSM, at no cost to the student</li> <li>• One parent had missed communications about the provision of lunches</li> <li>• Suggestion received that if the canteen has to isolate again parents could be asked to volunteer their services if they have the correct skills/qualifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV to check what and when the comms went out and feed back to that parent.</li> <li>• Parents invited to feed back via the PV email on how school can do better re communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV checked that email comms had been set as requested.</li> </ul>
	3. Y8 closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV explained that the comms re isolation of Y8 students had been effective. Only one family missed it and sent a student to school.</li> </ul>		

Teaching and Learning issues	1. GCSE/A level options process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMV explained that all students concerned with next steps would have teacher/student liaison to inform them</li> <li>• Y11 would normally be invited to an open evening, scheduled for 26 November, to look at 6<sup>th</sup> form and A Level options, with advice from subject teachers. This will not be possible this year.</li> <li>• A “virtual open evening” run for Y6 students is available on the website and has been very successful. The same company who produced it are to film subject specific sessions for departments to create a similar thing for Y11s.</li> <li>• Career advice will be available in school</li> <li>• Mr Mason will put something together to enable a forum in which parents can ask questions prior to the January deadline for 6<sup>th</sup> form applications.</li> <li>• Attainment grades will not be available to aid choice until after the December data collection. This is unlikely to be available to parents until January. A parent asked if this could be accelerated for Y11 students because it will coincide with Mock exams (if they take place) and be very late for informing choices re A Level subjects.</li> <li>• Staff will have conversations with all interested students about which A Level subjects to take, and will encourage a breadth of subjects.</li> <li>• Y13s will have mentoring in school and support with UCAS and apprenticeship applications</li> <li>• Y9 GCSE options happens a little later and it is not yet decided what the process will be. The provision of a similar filmed “virtual event” is being considered. Parents liked this idea. Y9 students will have direct access to subject staff in school to discuss options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMV to consider whether provision of grades to parents can be accelerated for Y11 and Y13 parents.</li> <li>• HMV to consider providing a similar event, including parent consultation, for Y9s.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y11 Virtual Open Evening launched and deadline adjusted to allow Students/families to use Data report to help inform final decisions. Good engagement and application numbers to date.</li> <li>• Update to Parents re mock exams and data.</li> <li>• Year 9 Virtual Options event launched. Follow up survey with option for support.</li> </ul>
	2. Remote learning offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMV explained that the school’s “Lockdown” offer had worked well and that feedback had been taken on board from parents and students. The school now wants to do more live lessons and recorded lessons. Staff have done a lot of training on Teams. At least one member of staff in each curriculum area is now trained. One maths teacher is now recording every A Level lesson and making them available on Teams.</li> <li>• HMV explained that if a year group were to close now, at least 50% of lessons could be offered “live” although there</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Learning Offer in place and shared with all stakeholders.</li> <li>• Parent/Carer and Student Remote Learning Guide with instructional videos in place.</li> <li>• Device access support in place to ensure all students can access remote offer.</li> </ul>

		<p>are difficulties envisaged if there is a mix of live and Teams students in the same lesson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School could not anticipate how many self-isolation cases there would be and GDPR restrictions complicate the communication process. Students/parents are requested that, if self-isolating, they should contact subject teachers direct in order to access the online offer whilst isolating. Otherwise subject teachers cannot distinguish between isolation and ordinary sickness absence.</li> <li>• After half term there will be a web-based offer involving learning packs aimed at short periods of absence for all year groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMV to examine how to circumvent the GDPR issues and ensure that self-isolating students are fully aware of the process</li> <li>• After half term, details of the offer to be published to parents.</li> </ul>	
	3. Parents' evenings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents' evenings to be a phone call home by either the Form Tutor or the Head of Year.</li> <li>• PV questioned how parental questions would be answered if the FT/HOY had not been given information from subject teachers or if parents had additional questions. HMV explained that the FT/HOY will record additional questions from parents and forward to the relevant teacher, who will get back to parents individually.</li> </ul>		
	4. Recovery from Lockdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMV explained that in order to recover "lost" learning from lockdown, each department has developed a curriculum map including the recovery work required to get students to where they need to be. Teachers are using these maps to determine, in each subject area, where each student is now, and what they need to do in order to get to where they need to be. The pace of learning is noticeably faster than before. Staff have been instructed not to pass on any personal concerns to the students. There have, however, been no cases of real concern been flagged</li> <li>• We now know that 2021 exams will be delayed by 3 weeks to give students more time to "catch up".</li> <li>• HMV is confident that all students will have the opportunity to catch up all missed work. Catch up funding is available and a catch up plan implemented.</li> <li>• OfQual has revised some of the GCSE requirements, particularly in English and History. This is likely to continue to 2022 exam cohort. Not much has changed at A Level.</li> <li>• The students are being assessed all of the time.</li> </ul>		

Extra-curricular issues	1. Bus Passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV explained that school buses are costing school £98k pa. The school has approached the council for some help and if this is forthcoming bus prices may be reduced. Currently buses can only be accessed by purchasing a term bus pass. If there is any spare capacity school may start to sell day passes in addition to the occasional use passes already on sale.</li> <li>• A parent asked whether students could travel on the school bus that is usually over subscribed while the y8 students are self isolating. H MV confirmed that currently the only way to do this would be to buy a day pass.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV to check with the Finance team if this is possible if a bus is not full</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus provision revised in light of parental feedback.</li> </ul>
	2. Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parent asked whether some leeway is being given to students if families don't have access to the correct uniform? H MV confirmed this is happening, although some inappropriate hoodies are being worn with PE kit, which will be challenged with parents.</li> <li>• A parent asked if school is accepting donations of out-grown uniform items. H MV explained that there is a box outside Reception for uniform drop-off. Some parents were not aware of this.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV to send out a reminder that this facility is available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on newsletter and twitter account.</li> </ul>
	3. After school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H MV explained that there is an intention to start to offer some sports coaching at lunch time, and that school will consider the provision of after school clubs going forward.</li> <li>• A parent asked whether Sports Leaders will continue as it leads to a qualification. Alice Fairhall is looking at this. It will continue, with Y13s being the first to restart.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Coaches appointed and offering provision for all year groups across the week.</li> <li>• Sports Leader provision in place for those who have started the qualification.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs Swann thanked all for attending the first virtual Parent Voice meeting.</li> </ul>		