

**Parent Voice Minutes 19 January 2021**

**Attended:** H McVicar- (H MV), D Hulbert (11), R Swann (11), R Vernon (8 / 11), A Morley, Mr & Mrs Cahill (8), N Jordan (13) J Rhodes (9/11), E Mougou Kovacs (11), S Gee (8), H Payton, E Howarth, K Godfrey, A Kennan, V Newton, D Rutter, J Ebbage L Byers, C Quinton, Jennifer, iPad2

**Apologies:**

Agenda item	Item raised	Discussion point	Action required	Outcome (to date)
General school issues	1. Email issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A parent raised the fact that her daughters' email account is full and thus she cannot email her teachers.</li> <li>H MV asked that any email problems should be raised by parents to the PV email address</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents to email PV address from their own email account</li> </ul>	
	2. Support from and communications to parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H MV gave thanks to parents on behalf of the SLT and staff for their support during the Covid pandemic.</li> <li>H MV apologised to Y9 and Y11 parents for the confusion caused by reports being issued on the same day as the email about the consultation process for exams/assessments. Some students were disturbed by this. Reassurances have been given.</li> <li>Parents commented that the comms in respect of Covid has been well received</li> <li>Parents said that the use of a Google form during the Y9 options process was particularly well received.</li> <li>A parent asked what forum should be used to praise the school. H MV answered twitter, email (Ofsted are no longer accepting "negative" complaints from parents because they have received so many). H MV confirmed that all praise received from parents is shared anonymously with staff and twitter praise is seen by the Trustees.</li> <li>H MV confirmed that despite the bad press teachers are receiving generally at present, and despite some schools encountering resistance from staff, no staff at Netherthorpe have refused to perform any of the additional tasks expected of them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H MV welcomed any feedback re communications</li> <li>H MV to review font size on email comms</li> <li>H MV to consider producing videos and 'reading out loud' letters instead of/ as well as letters for important communications - endorsement from parents for this approach</li> <li>H MV to consider the use of a QR code on comms so that parents who need it can access a spoken form of words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes were made to the font size etc. of all communication sent out to parents.</li> <li>Communication strategy will continue to be at the forefront of discussions across the Trust.</li> </ul>
	3. Mass testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H MV explained in some detail the processes that the school has had to develop in response to the Government's requirements for mass testing of students returning to school after Christmas. It is recognised that returning to school after lockdown is not the same and these processes may prove to be unnecessary.</li> <li>H MV wanted to dispel myths about the mass testing process and encourage parents to allow their children to be tested.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents to email any queries about testing to the PV email address</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the PV meeting in January, Government changes to the testing process took place. These were communicated with parent/carers and students and we successfully implemented a return to school programme involving over 3000 tests being carried out. We continue to successfully implement home testing for staff and students.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The school has now received a “letter of comfort” in the case of litigation arising out of mass testing from the DfE.</li><li>• As Head, HMV trained in every role required, before asking any of the staff to perform the roles. No member of staff will be asked to do anything he/she is not comfortable about.</li><li>• As the testing activities are over and above the already onerous task of online provision of lessons, Keith Brown the former Deputy Head, has been brought back to help HMV with the logistical exercise of setting up the testing.</li><li>• When the mass testing goes live, using the dance studio as a base, there will be an external team, funded by the government, conducting the testing, supported by Netherthorpe staff. The funding unfortunately only covers the external team for three weeks, after which the school will have to fund.</li><li>• The protocol for symptomatic students remains in place. They will have to take a PCR (lab based) test and are not allowed on the school site.</li><li>• Mass testing means students return to their lessons on resumption of school and those whose parents have consented will be taken out of class and tested using a lateral flow test (30 minute result) which is an accurate test in all but very low levels of viral load. If a child tests positive, he/she is sent home and is required to get a PCR test.</li><li>• After 3 to 5 days everyone is retested to see if the viral load has increased</li><li>• Staff will be tested weekly</li><li>• Serial testing – if a student tests positive, all close contacts are identified, and HMV will decide whether to close the year group. Close contacts have the option of self-isolation or daily tests for 7 days.</li><li>• No child will be forced into testing even if the parent has given consent</li></ul>		
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Teaching and Learning issues	1. Remote Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school has a legal obligation to provide live learning. HMV recognised the difficulties encountered when some students are at home and some in class. It is a lot easier when everyone is remote. School recommends about 50% of lessons online as it is good for student wellbeing to have a break from screen time.</li> <li>Parents praised the live learning as good for getting students to stick to the structure dictated by their timetables. This is a big improvement from the first lockdown.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HMV will send out a Remote Learning survey for parents to complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remote Learning Survey completed by all stakeholders and changes made based on this review.</li> </ul>
	2. Next steps for exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A parent asked if she had to read the whole 40-page consultation document. Recommended that parents should watch the Youtube video and participate in the survey.</li> <li>A parent asked whether her son would be disadvantaged by taking the BTec exam last week. HMV confirmed this is not the case. The exam will be one additional dimension that teachers can use when determining the students' final grade.</li> <li>A parent asked whether there are any plans for exam year students to finish early or to continue to the end of term. HMV said there has been no decision yet but that there will probably be some form of transition activity after the teacher assessments have been submitted and results are known in early July</li> </ul>		
	3. Y9/Y11 Options videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents expressed appreciation for the options videos. In the absence of an options evening they were a good substitute.</li> <li>There was a complaint that there was no mention of the option blocks on the 6th form application, until the point where the student was actually completing the form</li> <li>A parent asked for a benchmark for Y9 parents to look at alongside the school report when picking GCSEs</li> <li>Parents praised the teachers (particularly the English department) for prompt and comprehensive responses to emails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HMV to make sure this is mentioned in the documentation / video</li> <li>HMV to consider a benchmark report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment process and reporting system under review for Sept 2021. Working with School Improvement Partner.</li> </ul>
	4. Y9 Parents evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was confirmed that Y9 parents would receive a phone call from the form tutor only, unless they have raised any issues with departments, in which case they will receive individual responses from subject teachers.</li> </ul>		

Extra-curricular issues	1. Bus passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive feedback from parents. HMV confirmed that parents can claim reimbursement from the finance office for bus passes unused because of isolation.</li> <li>• HMV stated that the price of bus passes may have to increase next year</li> </ul>		
	2. Podcast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parent asked if Mr and Mrs Green's podcast could be reinstated. HMV confirmed this is unlikely because of the extra work created by live learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMV to relay the positive feedback</li> </ul>	
	3. Art Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parent asked whether the art award would be extended to include the national award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMV to ask the art department if this can be offered</li> </ul>	
	4. Sports coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMV confirmed that sports coaches are providing lunch time coaching on a rota basis with plans to extend this to after school activities as soon as it is feasible</li> <li>• HMV confirmed that Alice Fairhall is leading the existing Sports Leaders scheme so that existing participants can complete their accreditation.</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs Swann thanked all for attending this second virtual Parent Voice meeting</li> </ul>		