

## Parents Forum Meeting Minutes: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 9.30am

### **1. Report back on issues from the last meeting**

#### **a. Uniform**

Mr O'Shea is still in negotiation with Khalsa regarding uniform as discussed in the previous Parents Forum. Most points that were raised have been agreed.

#### **b. Soft drinks**

A letter was sent to parents to inform them that high sugar content drinks are banned in school as discussed in the last Parents Forum. A letter was also sent to Tesco and surrounding shops asking that these drinks are not sold to Bow School students. Staff at Tesco have asked that the children are made aware they cannot buy these drinks as they are still trying to.

#### **c. Feedback from Mr Jones on parent activities**

Finalised parent courses:

- Healthy Families
- Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home
- ICT for Beginners
- Understanding Your Child's Online World
- Triple P Teen Parenting One off Workshop.

There has been a disappointing uptake by parents for the Healthy Families course, which parents were keen on at the last Parents Forum. Texts were sent to parents instead of letters as preferred. The information is also available on the school website. Further text messages will be sent.

A parent suggested that parents may not have signed up because the children are not involved in the course.

### **2. Homework – Mr Lye and Mr Jones**

#### **a. Policy and discussion with parents around support**

Homework concerns are trying to be responded to.

All teachers are expected to set homework according to the homework policy, which is available on the school website. Students are expected to record homework in their planners and complete it to the highest standard. Homework can be completed in the LRC or afterschool, as well as at home. The frequency of homework set depends on each year group.

Subject Leaders plan homework into schemes of work and monitor that it is being set to students. Teachers set the planned homework with a reasonable deadline and students are expected to write the homework in their planner, complete it to the best of their ability and hand it in on time.

Teachers setting homework at the beginning of a lesson is trying to be put in place instead of at the end of a lesson, to avoid students forgetting or rushing to write it down.

Homework timetables for each year group are available on the school website. Children will know what section they are in as it is printed on their timetable and they should expect particular subjects to set homework on allocated days.

On the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), a parent's page would like to eventually be created.

A parent rose that her daughter has an issue with My Maths homework. She completes it at home and saves it, but her teacher can't see that it has been saved or completed. John O'Shea suggested this could be if there is a change in maths set.

**Action:**

- **Mr Lye to discuss the My Maths issue with the Head of Maths, Mr Shemoon.**

Parents appreciate when their child is set homework as they can see what they are learning about at school. A parent felt that their child was not set enough homework during the 2 week Christmas holiday. There are 4 different learning links on the school website for students to complete independent learning tasks.

A parent is concerned that their child uses their mobile phone at home instead of wanting to study and complete homework. Mr Jones reassured that students are told to not use their mobile phones in their lessons or around the school building and are encouraged to complete their homework at home.

### **3. Parent issues**

#### **a. Led by Alice Barker**

Parents would like to visit their child's lessons to see what they are learning about and their work as they don't always receive feedback from their children. Parents would like to watch concerts and events which include their children. Alice has asked a teacher about this before, but the teacher was concerned parents wouldn't attend.

#### **Texts to parents**

Parents agreed that it is a good idea to text them to inform that a letter has been sent/being sent out. However, they sometimes receive texts that a letter has been sent and their child

hasn't yet been given the letter. Staff cannot receive texts due to the management information system used.

### **Action**

- **Mr Lye to look into the quality assurance of text messages being sent to parents.**

### **Advertisement**

Advertisement for the school could be improved, such as banners and the use of the Waterside Theatre.

### **Lockers**

Some parents would like year 7's to have lockers as the children have to carry their PE kit and coat around school all day and therefore, their child will not wear a coat to school.

Mr Jones explained there is an issue of storage space for lockers even with 2 students sharing and a cloakroom can create theft issues.

### **Action**

- **Mr Jones to follow up with Mr Lye for next meeting**

### **Bow Extra**

Miss Olivia Smith (MfL) is the new Bow Extra Co-ordinator. She is looking at ways to use facilities in the school for parents (e.g. the gym, sports hall).

Some parents like their children joining extra-curricular activities, but consistency is needed as the teachers do not always turn up or cancel the clubs. The need for building capacity in the staff is needed before our offer can be built up.

### **Lunchtime**

A parent was concerned that the children don't have much time to eat their lunch as they queue for a long period of time.

KS3 have their lunch from 12.45 – 1.30pm and KS4 have their lunch from 1.00 – 1.45pm. Lunchtime is staggered so all students who are having a school meal can be served.

Parents suggested that year 6 parents could be given the opportunity to visit Bow school during lunchtime before their child starts in September, to see how it works.

### **Parent issues**

Please inform Alice Barker (Parent Governor) of any issues wished to be discussed at future Parent Forums.

**Next Parents Forum: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 9.30am**

- Progress levels explained – Mr Lye
- Update on parent facilities – Mr Jones