

Parent Forum Minutes: Tuesday 22nd January 2019, 9.30am – 10.15am

1. Parents' Forum / School Surgeries

Parent Forum – A platform for parents to feedback on key aspects of school policies and practises and to discuss items that they feel are important.

Dates for future Parent Forums:

- 5th March 2019
- 30th April 2019
- 18th June 2019

School Surgery – Opportunity for parents to get information about key features of school life in the form of presentations from key members of staff.

Dates for future School Surgeries:

- 5th February 2019
- 26th March 2019
- 14th May 2019
- 2nd July 2019

All dates for Parent Forums and School Surgeries are on the school website under the Parent tab. The school will send out a reminder to parents the week before.

2. School Gateway App

This is now the only way that the school can communicate with parents, all parents who attended today's Parent Forum are already using the app. All parents will need to register.

Parents can use the Gateway App to:

- Check child's timetable
- Which members of staff teaches your child
- Achievements and progress information
- Attendance
- Detentions
- Lunch money / Lunch monitoring
- Reports
- School website
- Behaviour

Parents were asked their thoughts on how the app was working.

- Payments - One parent mentioned that they were having difficulties with payments on the app.
- Behaviour Incidents - Parents would like to be given more information on behaviour via the app.
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- Access to reports – Parents express an interest in being able to use the app to access report for their children. MOJ will look into this.
- Detentions – Some parents expressed concern about the level of staff communication with home when their child has had a detention after school - If a student has a detention you will find the information on the Gateway App. A member of staff should call parent if their child has a 45/90 minute detention after school - MOJ explained the school policy and the fact that, for the most part, the system was being administered fairly and effectively with staff making sure to phone home at the earliest opportunity. He accepted that this may not have happened in the individual cases that were being discussed and as a result promised to remind staff of their responsibilities to ensure that this area of school practise is improved.

3. Parent Power

The school is aiming to establish a group of parents who would like to take an active and regular role in the various events and activities that take place in the school throughout the course of the year.

Proposal: Whole School Community Event: Saturday 13th July 2019, 11am – 2pm.

All parents agreed that the event would be a good idea:

- Parents meeting other parents
- Learning about food from other cultures
- Bringing the community together
- Sporting events
- Raising money for the school or charities

If parent/s are interested in being part of parent power please email Mr Morris: morrisi@bow-school.org.uk

4. Homework

Most parents' agreed that their child was not being given enough homework and that there should be a homework tab on the School Gateway App.

Homework should be given on a regular basis in every subject and students should be writing homework information in their planners.

MOJ explained the school position on homework and his surprise at the feedback that they were giving. Recent school monitoring has suggested that the majority of students are using their planners effectively to record homework but offered to look into this further and to respond to these concerns if this seemed appropriate.

Parents who have concerns regarding Homework or any other issues can make an appointment to see their child's Year Learning Manager, Year Learning Assistant or Form Tutor.

5. Open Agenda

- Are there any other aspects of school life that you would like to know about?
- Where can the school improve its service to you as parents?

Parent mentioned that their child does not have a reading book – MOJ explained that every child should have a reading book and can access a wide variety of books from the school library.

Year 7 Parent would like the opportunity to meet with staff to see how their child is getting on and settling into school and not have to wait for Year 7 Parents Evening towards the end of the academic year – MOJ once again explained that Parents can make an appointment to see their child's Year Learning Manager, Year Learning Assistant or Form Tutor to discuss progress etc and urged parents to make use of this support if they felt it was necessary.

**Next School Surgery: Tuesday 5th February 2019
9.15am – 10.15am (9.30am Start). Topic – Online Safety & Safeguarding.**

**Next Parent Forum: Tuesday 5th March 2019
9.15am – 10.15am (9.30am Start)**