

Minutes of the Parents Forum held 10th November 2009

Present: 7 parents Gillian Allen (Staff) Claire Allen (Staff)		
Apologies for Absence: 8 apologies for absence		
Minutes of Last Meeting	Agreed as a true record	ACTION
Matters Arising	None	
Welcome	Introductions were made and a special welcome to a new parent as a member of the forum.	
Chair	The Chair asked that the meeting focus on each item on the minutes from last time and any action arising from them.	
Item 1	Gurcharn had forwarded her apologies that she had not yet contacted the potential new forum members. She would however, be following this up.	GK
Item 2	Several members of the forum did attend the year 5/6 Open Evening in September. The Chair thanked all those who attended. There were positive reports of the talent evening. The issue regarding the involvement of Year 5 and Year 6 primary schools arose. It was hoped that in the future, contact would be made with Year 4 in order to “showcase” the school and encourage involvement with and an introduction to Churchill at an earlier point than Year 5 and 6.	
Item 3	A brief discussion took place regarding the much improved exam results from this year. It was noted that at one point the school was a “National Challenge” school but results even in that particular year had exceeded the challenge target and had continued to improve.	
Item 4	Some parents expressed positive feedback on school dinners. The cash system is working well and does not seem to be causing any problems. One parent mentioned that the equivalent cost of a free school meal had reduced to £1.60. This is insufficient to pay for a meal costed at £1.70. The cost of meals was originally based around a specific price structure, at a price point of £1.70 so the issue has been passed to David Baldwin for further investigation.	DB
Item 5	<p>“Raising the school leaving age” booklet. Gillian had received some feedback regarding the booklet which had been produced to inform parents of the details of plans to raise the school leaving age. Some people thought that the booklet was still a little complicated, with the terms used in it confusing to some parents. Gillian asked for suggested improvements.</p> <p>It was also suggested that an article be written for the next copy of “Adrenalin”, again publicising the Parents Forum and what the forum had been up to in the past year. One parent agreed to write this.</p>	ALL

<p>Item 6</p>	<p>There is still concern over the varying amounts of homework being set. Largely, the feeling is that this is insufficient. The results of the homework survey do not seem to be known as yet so Gillian agreed to investigate this. A further discussion took place regarding the marking of work and how peer marking is used in school. It was recognised that teaching techniques are different and that this is a result of contemporary techniques.</p> <p>Claire mentioned the use of various learning resources - in particular she brought the groups attention to the use of “my maths”, an online resource and how this is used in school.</p> <p>One parent mentioned “Sam Learning” – a further resource for learning. Information had previously been sent out from school regarding how to access this resource. It was agreed to send details to the Parents Forum.</p> <p>The Chair asked when children are “streamed” in Year 7 following their SATS. Claire explained that from the maths point of view, tests take place each ½ term and when this happens, each pupil is informed of the achievement level they have reached.</p> <p>In Science, there had been some concerns last year over the temporary staff and a range of different teachers in some classes. This had now been resolved with a full complement of staff in that department.</p>	<p>GA</p>
<p>Item 7</p>	<p>The thanks which had been expressed in the previous Parents Forum meeting regarding extra classes had been relayed to all of the staff by David Baldwin.</p>	
<p>Item 8</p>	<p>Gurcharn Kaur had made a previous request that the South West Area Children’s Team be invited to the forum but this had not been progressed as yet.</p>	<p>GK</p>

<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>1) A member of the Parents Forum raised some issues by E mail. <u>Cloakroom facilities</u> The parent is interested to know why there are no cloakroom facilities at the school. Some discussion took place with one or two of the more mature(!) members of the forum recalling a time when there were lockers in some corridors. Admittedly this was many years ago. Gillian will investigate the reasons why there are no facilities at the present time and report back to the Forum.</p> <p><u>Extra Curricular activities</u> The parent made the point about the importance of recording a pupil's extra curricular activities and achievements. This would also include any experience of work etc. Gillian advised that this information should be passed to form tutors to record and that the school does have an internal form to record pupil's achievements.</p> <p>All members of the forum agreed this is very important – a record of this type can act as a “Pupil CV” which would be very useful when going on to higher education, employment etc.</p> <p><u>Homework</u> The parent mentioned the concerns over homework and was aware of the discussion which took place in the previous minutes.</p> <p><u>Information for parents regarding school leaving age</u> Since the last meeting a leaflet had been issued to forum members, asking for feedback on its usefulness etc (see ITEM 5). This item is ongoing and all suggestions for improvement to the proposed leaflet are to be forward to Gillian. There will also be an article in the next copy of ADRENALIN.</p> <p>2) Apologies for absence in advance of the next meeting from one parent.</p> <p>3) Another parent had a couple of issues to raise <u>GAME Vouchers</u> Sheena handed over some GAME vouchers which she had managed to obtain from the sports shop on the Silverlink. Thank you.</p> <p><u>Pupils with medical problems</u> An incident had occurred at school where a pupil with sugar sensitivity had been given a chocolate bar as a reward. The parent was concerned that there should be a safety net in place to ensure that rewards are suitable. Medical issues are recorded on a child's record, but in this case, this information had not been shared appropriately.</p> <p>4) Gillian Allen Gillian distributed an up to date timetable of activities currently on offer at the school.</p>	<p>GA</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>January 19th 2010 6.30pm</p> <p>And a Happy Christmas and New Year to you all!</p> 	