

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Date: Wednesday, 3rd February 2021

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Teams

MEETING MINUTES

Present from SGHS: Mrs V Fox, Mrs F McMillan

Students present: n/a

Parents present: C Vereker, D Whitfield, B Kumar, L Wolstenholme, C Hands, J Mitchell, J Bean, K Roden, S Owthwaite, C North, C Aspin, S Irlam, C Pilkington, R Greenfield, S Kirwin, T Sardar, J Thersby

Apologies: J McBeath, G Williams, C Strelitze,

- 1. Welcome:** Thank you everyone for attending and welcome to Jess Bean and Christine North, whose daughters are in Year 7.
- 2. Apologies:** See above. **Items for AOB:** Student motivation, Screen time
- 3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:**

Update on the 6th form working space questions from last week; VAF clarified that the Year 13 space in West Bank could be used less socially during proper lesson time and raised the point that there are classrooms/rooms above the social space that can be used for quieter study. FAM suggested that there is plenty of space for these students, but it may not necessarily be where they want it to be, but explained how important it is to keep students in school, especially at this time.

SYO brought up how there is a definite need for more academic space for quiet work for this cohort. FAM stressed how EHP, MLB, CEU are in this area at the minute and can monitor this easily.

CEV brought up the question of tutor time and could it be changed for students in the sixth form, who may find it beneficial to access frees from home (when we are in as normal). FAM talked about the importance of times shared across year groups and keeping a sense of community.

CEV also wanted our impression of what may be happening with Year 11/13 and will they have extra time this academic year. VAF explained how we don't yet know, but that it's likely we will have these cohorts for a more prolonged period than 'normal'.

JAT and TAS wanted to pass on positives from the learning conversations around feedback that their children were involved in. This has been a motivating influence.

4. Teaching and Learning Remotely Lockdown 2.0

This section of the meeting occurred in small discussions in break out rooms.
Feedback to whole group:

JAM raised what solutions we have for volume of teachers who are supervising IN SCHOOL, but how this often carries through the 'in school' students' laptops and causes interference at home.

JAB brought up how children are missing social opportunities. Year 7 friendships are still uncertain and they are limited in how they can interact in friendship groups. Could this be something tutors can facilitate?

DDW brought up the limited opportunities students may have in access to outdoor experiences and how our academic time currently makes it difficult for children to get fresh air.

FAM brought up how we have looked at screen time/rigidity of school day and impact on students and staff. We have passed on how lessons can finish 5 minutes early to allow moving/brief departure from screen. And we have also planned for department time, where lessons on a given

day, for a given subject will not be live and can be encouraged to be off screen.

TAS brought up how important the community events are, like the PE challenges.

KNR asked if we can use the curriculum more creatively to allow for different opportunities and JAT came up with some creative ideas, - can we use time in Art, Geography, Photography to offer some off-screen or creative/more practical or different routes into the curriculum?

TAS wanted also to stress the importance of Duke of Edinburgh and the richness of experiences this offers our students.

KNR wanted to ask about the impact of SCITT trainees on the students and how this was being tackled, particularly for 9E. VAF explained how this was always considered when putting timetables together, but we did have more narrowness in our exposure to groups this year, with the different instabilities and pressure points for certain year groups.

FAM brought up how in her group, there were many things raised about how positive this lockdown has been, compared to the first and wanted to remind everyone of the short notice we had and how quickly we all had to adapt our plans.

FAM then shared how we've adapted to the changes in the national testing programme in schools. We took quick action to train our teams up and establish the testing space (booths, different roles etc.). She then also shared the processes for when we get positive tests (of which we have had none) and negative tests, and also explored how often we test staff/ student cohorts and key worker students.

5. Parent Toolkit:

VAF read aloud the blog post Anna McQuade has written for parents and invited parents, individually, to pass on ideas that may be useful in creating a toolkit for parents for the upcoming lockdown weeks. VAF to share blog with all parents and formulate discussions with key staff re: parents advice/support/toolkit, where necessary.

6. **AOB** – Friends of SGHS reminder: latest list of Friends' events circulated. The Quiz & Curry night is this Friday, any help or support appreciated. Parent Governor elections for school – see email to parents/carers sent this week. We are seeking to elect a parent governor to our local governing board. If any parents/carers feel that they have a suitable skillset or know another parent/carers who does, please be encouraged to nominate. Nominations are due by this Friday, please.

Meeting closed at 7.10pm