



**Parents' Forum
8.00 a.m. Thursday 14th February 2019**

Attendees:-

Mrs Götschel, Headteacher

Miss Finucane, Assistant Headteacher – Learning and Achievement

Mrs Rolf, Business Support Manager / Clerk to Governors

Mrs Dodd – HR Director

A total of 7 parents attended.

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| <p>1.</p> | <p><u>Updates from School</u></p> <p>Mrs Götschel welcomed parents to the Parents’ Forum and thanked them for coming.</p> <p>Staff Introduced themselves and their role within school. Mrs Finucane – Assistant Headteacher: part of her role is to oversee, Student Surveys, Parent Forums etc. Mrs Rolf – Clerk to governors, taking the minutes Mrs Dodd – HR Director: oversees catering provision within school.</p> <p>Parents then introduced themselves and identified their daughters’ year group: 4 parents had a daughter in Year 7 Parents and 3 in Year 8.</p> <p>Mrs Götschel referred to her start of term letter and talked through the new entrance proposals. Safeguarding of students and staff is the main priority and at the moment visitors can gain access to the whole school when they come into the main building, hence the need for security all day. We are receiving some funding from the Government which will allow us to build a conservatory in front of the main doors. This will mean any visitors will not be able to access the main building; they will be able to wait in the new reception area until they are collected by the appropriate member of staff. Once built this will negate the need for security all day and will reduce budget costs accordingly. We hoped to have this constructed over February half term, but with all of the builds we have already undertaken, we have exceeded the % by which we can increase the building without having planning permission. A planning application has been submitted; we do not anticipate any issues so that we can hopefully have the work carried out over Easter. Mrs Götschel advised that the School production is taking place this week. It was shown to students after school yesterday and it was excellent. We need to order some new microphones, so that we can have the full benefit of all the performers. One parent fed back that last year’s productionshe could not believe was a school play; it was like a London production! The mermaid character gave her goose bumps. One parent asked if it would be possible for a performance to be on a Saturday afternoon as she worked nights, so was not able to attend. The consensus was that this would probably be well attended. Mrs Götschel will look into this with the staff involved, for future productions.</p> <p>Every two years we undertake surveys from Students, Parents and staff. These are completely anonymous and are undertaken by an independent company Kirland Rowell. Students will complete them in their IT lessons, staff will complete them online and parents will be sent a paper copy to complete and send back. There are some set questions</p> | <p>JGö discussed with HoD. From previous experience the number attending did not justify the performance. Some students in the cast had other commitments on a Saturday.</p> <p>LFi – Parent surveys were sent home via students on Thursday 25th February.</p> |
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Feedback on the Catering Provision

Mrs Götschel advised the forum that there was supposed to be a meeting with the Director and Operations Manager of Aspens yesterday, but they did not turn up the meeting. The company were going to be told that if the service and quality had not improved and all of the concerns not addressed by Easter, we would be terminating the contract and going back out to tender.

The current menus have been chosen by the Student Council and the provider is now following these menus. However, having agreed the menus, Aspens produced two different ones with only a choice of Halal or Pizza, so this is an additional concern.

Mrs Dodd has been taking photographs of the food that is left at the end of service as we wanted to ensure that every student had a choice of a hot meal, sandwiches or salad. Mrs Dodd did advise that this has to be balanced against the waste, but there was plenty of food left including salad, sandwiches and hot food, but it is not always what the students want.

Mrs Götschel continued by explaining the overall quality of the food is not good. The bread is sub-standard and that we have previously raised concerns which have not been addressed. This was very frustrating as the food we were provided with at the tender stage wowed all of us, including the students involved. She also went on to advise that there has been a lack of support for the catering staff. The previous catering manager has now left and there has been no replacement as yet.

There was then a general discussion amongst the group and the following points were made:

- Portion sizes are smaller but the cost does not reflect this; food seems to be improved but there is not as much food;
- The price of the cookies is not proportionate - 65p for the small cookie and £1.00 for the larger cookie, but students feel it is not value for money as it is just a small cookie rolled out thinner;
- Pizza every day;
- students want to know what they are eating and what is in it, and the labelling is not telling them this;
- staff are not answering questions and just telling them to look at the labels, so they don't feel they can ask questions;
- staff responding 'you can have this or that' and then told to go;



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| <p>3.</p> | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>1. Mrs Götschel distributed the Behaviour Policy to the parents for them to take away and feedback with any comments. The document has been updated following guidance on supporting children who have a range of needs. The policy is based on the Department for Education document 'Managing Behaviour in Schools'. The document states that schools have a right to impose detentions without giving parents notice, however, we do not follow this, as from a safeguarding point of view, we feel parents' should be given 24hours notice, so that they are aware of where their child is.</p> <p>Page 2 covers underlying principles – children have different challenges depending on where they start in life and it is about being fair, rather than everyone being treated the same.</p> <p>Implementation looks at the social, emotional and mental health of children and recognising that they have challenges and we deal with them accordingly. The rest of the policy is in line with DfE guidance.</p> <p>2. A question was asked about sports within school. The parent had a daughter in Year 7 who has netball practice, but the school doesn't actually have a netball team in Year 7. The students are actually playing in a Year 8 team, but he is worried then that Year 8 students may be missing out. He appreciated that staff were giving up their own time at the end of the day, but he wondered why there was not a team for Year 7. Mrs Finucane will raise this with the Director of Sport and feedback.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the school has a high focus on Basketball. Mrs Götschel advised that the school has a basketball and cricket academy for 6th Form but we have been talking about a Netball academy. It was suggested that parents could maybe become involved in running sessions. Mrs Götschel advised that this is definitely something we could look into and if parents were running sessions the school would organise DBS checks.</p> <p>One parent was willing to do an after school activity for ½ - 1½ hours.</p> <p>3. Mrs Götschel then talked about the Gatsby Bench Mark Careers Provision. We are struggling to attract employers to work with the school so it would be good if any parents could offer help in this regard.</p> <p>4. It was suggested that we send out a summary of all of the things that we would like to run and then see if any parents are able to contribute.</p> | <p>Behaviour Policy will be looked at by the School Council and then will go to the Governors for ratification.</p> <p>Director of sport feedback - There is a year 7 & 8 netball team and a year 9 & 10 netball team. This has operated for a number of years now and works well for the department in terms of cost, staffing and the time needed to attend matches. The students will move up into year 8 and then on to year 9 and 10. Students enjoy working with the different age groups, where the younger ones can be supported by the older ones. If there were more clubs - it would become unmanageable due to the number of games that would be needed to be played.</p> <p>Parents are welcome to become involved in clubs if they have the skills set however they would not be able to take students</p> |
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