



Parents' Forum
8.00 a.m. Friday 23rd October 2020 – Virtual via Zoom

Attendees:-

Mrs Götschel, Headteacher

Miss Finucane, Assistant Headteacher – Learning and Achievement

Mrs Rolf, Administration & Curriculum Support Manager / Clerk to Governors

A total of 21 parents attended.

ITEM		ACTION BY
1.	<p>Mrs Götschel welcomed everyone to our first virtual parent forum meeting. The number of parents wanting to join the meeting far exceeded previous numbers and she was sorry that the interaction would not be the same as a face to face meeting, but hopefully with the advanced questions submitted, most areas highlighted would be addressed. If there were any questions or feedback after the meeting, please email t.rolf@lordswoodtrust.co.uk. Mrs Götschel then shared an agenda with the group which included the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Covid Update 2. Parents' Evening 3. Remote Learning 4. Lunch/Food 5. Lordswood Girls' School Fleece 6. Homework 7. Sports 8. Marking and Assessment 	
2.	<p>Covid Update</p> <p>A letter has been sent out over the last couple of days updating all parents on the current situation. We have had 15 cases of Covid which has been spread across all year groups with the exception of Year 13. All Key Stage 3 year groups are in their teaching bubbles for lessons, break and lunch. Key Stage 4 students are in whole year group bubbles and the DfE originally advised that if there was a case of covid in the year group, then the whole group would have to be sent home to isolate. There has been shift in policy and if schools can reliably identify who has been in contact with the person who has tested positive and then only these</p>	

	<p>students would need to be sent home. For years 10 & 11 we will avoid where we can, sending a whole group home.</p> <p>This term has been very difficult for both students and staff. There have been 4 confirmed cases within the staffing, 3 support staff and 1 teacher.</p> <p>The cleaning of the school has been brilliant throughout lockdown and since September when the school re-opened. Cleaners are in twice a day and we have cleaners in during the day to clean down touch points after break and lunch times. We are looking to increase this after half term.</p> <p>We have not received any additional funding to deal with the crisis and we have spent around £70,000 of our budget so far to ensure that the school is Covid safe.</p> <p>All classrooms have been completely refurbished to allow us to comply with the guidelines and enable a maximum of 26 students in each room allowing for the 1 and 2 metre distances to be maintained.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Parents' Evenings</p> <p>At the moment we are unable to bring in large numbers of people into the school, so we have invested in some software, <i>School Cloud</i>, which will allow us to deliver Parents' Evenings virtually. This was trialled with Year 7. There were a few teething problems which we feel can be resolved. The software is being successfully used in another school in Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Year 10 Parents' Evening has been postponed to enable us to try to address teething problems. The first full parents' evening will be the Year 8 Parents' Evening after half term. Parents book a five minute appointment slot so that face to face contact can be made. Further instructions will be sent out after half term.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Remote Learning</p> <p>Mrs Götschel stressed that we do not want any students falling behind, especially if they are having to isolate at home. We have looked at the gaps in learning following lockdown and programmes of study have been re-worked.</p> <p>We are delivering live lessons to any students that are sent home and they must follow their normal timetable. Attendance registers will be taken to ensure students are engaging and if they do not attend, this will be followed up to establish why. Any absences must be reported in the usual way.</p> <p>Students who have been sent home and require Chrome books have been provided with these and the feedback so far has been good.</p>	

	<p>We ask for parents' support in ensuring that their child's conduct at home is the same as it would be in school.</p> <p>Lessons cannot be recorded at any time as this would be a data breach</p>	
5.	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Mrs Götschel advised that it has always been our plan to provide some form of hot food once the colder days approached. She explained the constraints we are under with the area where we normally serve and eat food, hence the need to deliver and eat food within classrooms.</p> <p>A new Catering Manager was appointed to the school and he and his team have been very supportive and accommodating of the changes that have had to be introduced. He has been very supportive in the need to provide hot food, however the risk assessment currently does not allow staff to carry hot food upstairs. We are investigating all of our options. We have a dumb waiter in school that was decommissioned, so we are looking into reinstating this so that the catering team would have a facility to transport food to the first and second floors. This is quite costly, approximately £8,000. Whilst we still intend to provide hot food to students, this may be delayed until the end of November.</p>	
6.	<p>Lordswood Girls' School Fleece</p> <p>Mrs Götschel advised we need to keep rooms well ventilated where we can, but as the colder months approach a parent suggested the possibility of a fleece which we have looked into. With our uniform provider Clive Marks the cost is coming out at £19.99, which we feel is a lot of money for families in today's climate. Hoodies are not acceptable. We have advised students that they can wear a plain t-shirt under their shirts/blouses.</p> <p>We welcome parents' comments on this. If they can be sent to t.rolf@lordswoodtrust.co.uk</p>	
7.	<p>Homework</p> <p>Mrs Götschel talked through the expectations for each year group, following a couple of questions received from parents.</p> <p>Year 7 – 20 minutes per subject, 3 per night in the week, 4 for a weekend</p> <p>Year 8 & 9 – 30 minutes per subject, 3 per night in the week, 4 for a weekend</p> <p>Year 10 & 11 – Open ended as they have longer deadlines to complete work. The guidance is the same as for Year 8 & 9</p>	

	<p>There is a link on the home page of the website to guide you to where work can be found.</p> <p>If your child is spending longer on a piece of work than anticipated, please feed this back to the member of staff or put a note in your child's planner so that we can be made aware and can adapt the work set accordingly.</p>	
8.	<p>Sports</p> <p>Mrs Finucane advised that the AGP (All Weather Games Pitch) is now completed and fully operational.</p> <p>The facility is used by PE as part of the daily curriculum and the range of activities that take place are: Football; Tag Rugby; Athletics; Rounders; Fitness activities; Some of these can only take place in better weather conditions.</p> <p>PE are also looking at running the Sports Leaders lessons on the AGP going forward.</p> <p>A football club was being run after school, however this has had to be suspended due to Covid.</p>	
9.	<p>Marking and Assessment</p> <p>Mrs Götschel advised that some work is being marked on-line. However, due to Covid, if books need to be marked this may take approximately 1.5 weeks. This is because books have to be collected in, and placed in a bag that has to remain untouched for 72 hours. The books will then be marked, but the same 72 hour process has to happen before the books are handed back to the students. There can also be a delay if a member of staff is not in school.</p> <p>The Assessment calendar for Interim Reports and Full Profiles is still in place and these will continue to be sent out within the time lines outlined on the calendar. The only difference is that Parents' Evenings will be virtual.</p>	
10.	<p>General Items Raised</p> <p>Mrs Götschel advised that we may look at holding separate forums for the Year 11 & Year 13 parents, with the concerns that are being raised over examinations this summer and the additional stress that this may cause students and staff. The government are moving the exams by 3 weeks, and one example of this is the English GCSE exam, which usually takes place the week before the May half term, this is now moving to the week after the half term break, so in actual fact this is only equates to a week's difference.</p> <p>Mrs Götschel was asked what a typical day was like at Lordswood at the moment. Mrs Götschel advised that she was really</p>	

<p>concerned about the mental health issues that may have arisen as a result of lockdown. However, she has been really impressed with the students' positivity and at how well they have adapted to the new routines and lessons. Student movement around school is considerably reduced with teachers moving between rooms. Bubbles are in place and these seem to be working very well. After school clubs are not taking place at the moment.</p> <p>A question was raised about SEN support in lessons. Mrs Götschel advised that it had proved difficult to have another member of staff within the room and to be able to maintain social distancing guidelines. There has been some student withdrawal, but this is being kept to a minimum. Lesson plans are shared with the Learning Support team and they are then adapting resources to support those lessons and students.</p> <p>A question was raised about Musical Instruments. Mrs Götschel advised that all peripatetic lessons are being held virtually, with the exception of keyboard lessons, as keyboards can be cleaned down easily after each use.</p> <p>Mrs Götschel thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their continued support, wishing them well and hoping that they continue to stay well. She asked for feedback to keep coming as this helped us all in ensuring the school remains a safe place for everyone.</p>	
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Future Agenda Items