



**Parents' Forum**  
**8.00 a.m. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 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 the meeting. The following items were discussed following parents' questions submitted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Covid Update</li> <li>2. Parents' Evening</li> <li>3. Remote Learning</li> <li>4. Catch Up</li> <li>5. Public Exams</li> <li>6. School Meals</li> <li>7. Class room Temperatures</li> <li>8. A.O.B.</li> </ol>	
2.	<p><b>Covid Update</b></p> <p>Mrs Götschel advised that she has major concerns if school is notified of any positive cases of COVID from Monday as this will impact on families over Christmas. Schools have been asked to carry out contact tracing up until Christmas Eve.</p> <p>The DfE was asked to consider remote learning for the last week of term to avoid the need for families to have to isolate in the event of a positive case in school. This request was declined. An overview of the number cases within school was shared with everyone. It highlighted that there is limited evidence of in school transmission, and Public Health Birmingham has confirmed that, in the majority of cases, the virus is being brought into school from outside (parent workplace / homes). It has been upsetting that we have had to isolate Year 11 &amp; 10 on three separate occasions. They have worked so hard throughout the pandemic and we are</p>	

	incredibly proud of the work Year 11 have put in. There is expected to be a spike in infections after Christmas. At the moment, the current arrangements will be in place until the Summer term. If plans change, we will inform you of those changes.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Parents' Evenings</b> <p>Mrs Götschel spoke about the importance of maintaining contact with parents, which is why we purchased software to allow us to undertake the meetings virtually. There has been some very positive feedback with some parents preferring the online arrangement. Year 13 Parents' Evening resulted in a higher attendance. A concern raised was that 5 minutes was not long enough. Another concern was that sometimes parents may not have ever met the teacher and in particular Year 7 would need a face to face meeting at the start of the year. We will continue to review feedback from the different evenings and if parents have any suggestions, please let the Headteacher know by emailing <a href="mailto:s.allport@lordswoodtrust.co.uk">s.allport@lordswoodtrust.co.uk</a></p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Remote Learning</b> <p>The updated Remote Learning Policy has been agreed by Governors. The policy is available to view on our website. Mrs Götschel advised parents that the remote learning has worked really well so far and asked parents congratulate their child on how well they have coped with it and the remarkable resilience that they have shown to all of the changes.</p> <p>With regard to catch up, funding has been given to schools to plug any gaps within learning. The funding is issued in three tranches and is allocated up on a formula basis. We have used the funding to purchase additional text books, revision guides and resource packs. We have also purchased more chrome books, but due to the demand for these, they are not going to be available until February/March time. In terms of student progress, data has shown that more able students still make good progress when learning remotely and this was true during lockdown; less able students/ SEN students have made less progress and we have been focusing on the intervention that is in place to support these students.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Public Exams</b> <p>Mrs Götschel advised parents that this is a massive concern to Headteachers. Wales and Scotland have cancelled exams, however, they are still due to go ahead in England. The Government have moved the start week to the week after May half-term, rather than the week before. They have also streamlined the exams, by removing the oral component from the</p>	

	<p>English exam for example. This is not an element that will affect their overall grade and Lordswood students actually completed this component in year 10.</p> <p>There are concerns around gaps in learning for year 11 students depending on whether they reside in an area of the country that has been badly affected by COVID. Some students have had more disrupted learning than others e.g. cities like Birmingham have been affected more than places like Cornwall. Mrs Götschel was happy to hold a separate meeting for Year 11 Parents if parents would find this helpful.</p> <p>With regard to GCSE exams for year 10, there is no information on any plans to amend the examinations currently. It will doubtless very much depend on how the year goes.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>School Meals</b></p> <p>Mrs Götschel asked for parent feedback on school meals. If you could send any comments/suggestions to her via <a href="mailto:s.allport@lordswoodtrust.co.uk">s.allport@lordswoodtrust.co.uk</a> We have been able to provide some hot options, not particularly everything that we would like, due to the limitations we have to for delivering food safely.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Classroom Temperatures</b></p> <p>Mrs Götschel advised that some concerns have been raised about the temperature in some classrooms. There is no legal lower limit within schools, although unions recommend that it shouldn't drop below 18 degrees celsius. We will continue to monitor this and the level of ventilation in rooms. The fleeces that the students are wearing look really good and the school may consider these as a permanent option for the uniform! It is recommended that layers and fleeces are the best options whilst we are dealing with the COVID restrictions. Thank you to parents for the original suggestion.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>A.O.B.</b></p> <p>Mrs Götschel asked for parent feedback on Edulink. We hope in the future to be able to use Edulink for everything and Parentmail would be phased out.</p> <p><b>Year 7 Sets</b></p> <p>When Year 7 students start, they are placed into review groups in which they remain throughout KS3 and 4. Usually they are taught for the first 3 weeks for all subjects in these groups until they have undertaken their cognitive ability tests (CATs). The CATs data, along with Key stage 2 results, determine the sets into which students are placed for core subjects and MFLs. This year we</p>	

	<p>have not had Key Stage 2 results due to COVID but the Fisher Family Trust have worked with NFER to give schools guidance on grades to allocate to students. We agreed that we would not test our students until at least the end of September, so that departments could review the data. We do not feel that we can delay the group changes any longer as the teaching needs to meet the students' needs and we need to ensure that students receive the support that they need. As we cannot mix bubbles during the current COVID restrictions, we needed to have a clean break before the new bubbles started. We realise that change can be unsettling but hopefully by the summer term, students will be able to return to their review groups for registration and some of their lessons. If parents have any concerns, please can they raise them with Mrs Peniket or Mrs Götschel.</p> <p>Meeting finished at 8.40 a.m.</p>	