



TERMLY PARENTS FORUM - IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting : Tuesday 15th July 2008
Present: J Ford (Headteacher), C Keating (Head of KS4), B Darvill (Chair of Governors)
Members: A Joyce, C Lehan, K Probert, J Forbes-Kiely, A Gunter, G Thompson, C Williams, P Steers, P Jacobs, P Starr, M Palmer, J Hochkins, D Reed, J Peadon, S Johnstone, M Calvey
Minutes: C Keating
Next Meeting: TBC

Update on Issues Raised by Parents from previous meeting

Advance Notice for School Trips

A full list of trips was provided for parents. The list will be distributed in September as a mail shot. Parents were asked to review the mail shot and discuss at the next meeting. Parents agreed that the format was a good step in the right direction. Jon Ford outlined proposals for an activities week either in 2008-2009 or 2009 – 2010. Parents were in favour. A concern was raised re: the cost of the ski trip. Other concerns focussed on the equity of costs of languages trips and cost value of Challenge 08 in relations to what could be offered locally. The group was informed that the cost of a 5 day experience at Blacklands was approximately £180 (as opposed to £250 for Challenge 08).

Lunchtime Issues

Jon Ford has monitored the queue. On all occasions it has been fine. This may well be due to seasonally warm weather which invites the prospect of packed lunches. Jon Ford outlined WSCC sending a letter to invite a bid to improve dining facilities.

Parking – safety issues

Jon Ford gave a visual guide of how the front of the Upper School site will change re: parking and safety. Work will commence during the summer. Progress has not been made yet at lower school. Parents were in favour of not being allowed to drop-off inside a security barrier.

Inform Students of Staff Changes

Details out soon in contact (September mail shot will contain names of all staff!). Jon Ford outlined the current situation re: 11 members of staff retiring. A discussion was held re: recruitment. Parents all felt the school should wait for the right candidate in all cases. Jon Ford confirmed that this is his policy completely.

Agenda Items

1) Parents Evening

Jon Ford outlined current arrangements. It is felt that Students attending was a positive thing. Parents were happy with the concept of Students being told that their parents are not required to attend if all is going well. Parents were happy to have shortened days for all year groups if necessary. Calls for more privacy especially in Drama/Science. (We need to open more rooms!) Parents would be happy to continue conversations by telephone. This could possibly be done prior to the parents evening..

2) Update ILPs

Some changes to ILP's this year. The wide subject choice given to students this year presented problems re: assessments and marking workloads. Parents raised concerns re: problems with motivation if work is not marked. A recommendation was also made that the 12 projects should test different skills. Concerns were also raised regarding consistency in terms of all students doing the projects and involving students in the design of the ILP's. The new proposal is that students all do the same subject area in any group and cover all 12 curriculum subjects over 2 years. It is hoped that this will address the causes of the problems highlighted.

3) EGGS Meeting

Jon Ford outlined how the EGGS group works and assured parents of his support.

4) One – way system (Windmill Lane)

The question was posed as to whether we have one or not. Jon Ford confirmed that he will reinforce the idea. Chris Keating outlined the benefits of traffic speed reduction. A parent queried the merits of canvassing local residents. Another parent highlighted the benefits of a 'part-time' one way system in 'Gossops Green'.

5) School Newsletters

Problems in terms of receiving 'contact' and other letters. Jon Ford outlined proposals to have parents subscribing to a system where letters relating to each Year group could be sent. A parent suggested an email link which highlights the fact that the parent should go to the website to view a letter.