



Imberhorne School Parents' Forum
Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 2018

Present

Martin Brown, Headteacher, Bob Darvill, Chair of Governors, Ian Bond, Chair of Finance Committee, Helen Vince, Sally Cullen, Anne Knight, Kim Comber, Rachel Clark, Emma Goff, Kate Scott, Liz Allard, Sally Tottman (Secretary).

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Debbie Hainsworth, Sue Smeaton, Sharna Holmwood, Louise Walker and Lucy Doyle.

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2017

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Sharing of reports

Mr Brown referred to a matter arising from the previous meeting and confirmed that it was possible to share reports (accessed through SIMsparent) by downloading them as a PDF and emailing as an attachment.

Imberlink AGM

Mr Brown introduced, Ian Bond who chairs the Governors' Finance committee and who was attending in order to provide a financial report on the Imberlink charity finances.

Mr Bond explained that the charity received funding from two sources: school fund payments and the Imber 200 lottery. Gift aid enhances contributions by 25%. He drew attention to the Annual Report for 2016-17 (attached to these notes) which outlined how funds had been used. In addition to using funds to purchase items for departments to support learning, bursaries were offered in cases of financial hardship to enable participation in trips and other activities.

Parents discussed how parental participation in the Imber 200 lottery and contributions to the school fund could be increased. Mr Brown explained that a letter is sent to parents at the beginning of the school year introducing /reminding them of the School Fund and Imber200. However, it was felt that more parents would contribute, if given another reminder.

It was suggested that the school could use Facebook to encourage more contributions and that students' testimonials of how Imberlink funds had benefited them might help to this end.

In conclusion Mr Bond reported that he would be attending the forthcoming briefing meetings for Year 6 parents in order to publicise the school fund and Imber 200.

Emerging School Priorities

Mr Brown explained that the school was currently in the third year of its current School Improvement Plan and outlined some of the agreed priorities:

- i) Developing Community projects – the school sees itself as a community school and would like to strengthen links with the local community and raise its profile.
- ii) Rewards – Parents and students have been informed of the revamped rewards system. The aim was to take a more personalised approach to rewarding students.

- iii) Literacy –New approaches to the problem of reluctant readers were being considered.
- iv) Importance of Study Skills and becoming independent learners.
- v) Wider opportunities for enrichment for all students – whilst many students are offered and take up opportunities for enrichment, there are those who do not.

Discussion took place on ways that more students could be encouraged to attend clubs and take up opportunities to widen their experiences and the following points were made:

- The cost of some activities might be a barrier to some families.
- There was a gender imbalance in the take up of some activities/opportunities.
- Activities like Duke of Edinburgh were very valuable.
- Students sharing their experiences might encourage others to participate.
- It was noted that some students were reluctant to participate and were also worried about accepting public praise for fear of not being 'cool'. Because of this, a more bespoke reward process would be helpful.
- Agreed – that ways of 'selling' the range of experiences to parents and students should be considered in order to increase participation.

Start of Term arrangements

There is to be a phased start to the new term in September. Years 7 and 11 will start on 4th Sept at their respective sites, together with Year 9 peer mentors. All other students will return to school on 5th September.

Mr Brown explained that a phased return would give a more focussed start for Year 7 students and was common practice in many schools.

Parental enquiries

Independent Technology task

Mr Brown undertook to follow up on a concern expressed by Mrs Vince over feedback on independent tasks set in technology.

Second Modern foreign Language at GCSE

Mrs Vince asked why it was necessary to timetable twilight sessions for those students who chose to study a second modern foreign language.

Mr Brown said he would investigate but that whether the second language was timetable during the day or after school might depend on the numbers choosing to do that option. He confirmed, in response to a question from Mrs Clark, that only Italian could be as a second language.

Year 10 Consultation evening

Mrs Cullen reported that there had been no prior notice that Year 10 Consultation evening appointment bookings had opened. Mr Brown said he would follow this up.

Following the meeting, Mr Brown had established that the letter to parents advising them of the forthcoming Year 10 Consultation evening was emailed on Tuesday 24th April at 08.17am. Bookings opened on the weekend of Sat 28th/Sun 29th.

Mrs Cullen also expressed concern that one of her appointments had been cancelled. She undertook to email Mr Brown specific details.

Mrs Goff commented that the evening had run very well.

SIMS Parent

Mrs Allard reported that assessment data was not appearing on SIMS Parent although it was on SIMS Gateway.

Mr Brown has asked the IT Manager to try to address this problem.

Other Business**Mindfulness**

In response to a question from Mrs Allard, Mr Brown reported that Mindfulness sessions have been offered to staff and students.

Benches

Mrs Clark reported that some of the benches at Windmill lane were splintered and in need of attention. Mr Brown confirmed that a replacement programme was ongoing at both sites.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7.35pm