



Report from Family Forum

Thursday 10th November 2022

Many thanks for all the parents and carers that attended our Family Forum meeting earlier this week.

As ever we really enjoyed discussing a wide range of issues and hope you left the meeting feeling more informed and that you had been able to discuss any particular areas of the school with the senior team as well as the Chair of Governors.

As always we followed the format of a couple of pertinent presentations from the senior team and then moved into a range of questions that we had received from parents and carers as time allowed.

The senior team firstly presented on two areas; Internet Safety by Miss Miles our Designated Safeguarding Lead and a Scaffolding/Teach to the Top presentation from Mrs Rowe our lead for the professional development of our teachers. The presentations are available on our website.

We then went into a question and answer session and discussed a variety of areas of the College including

- Do we spend too much time addressing incorrect uniform and how do we monitor the use of mobile phones?
Response: we do address uniform issues and have strict rules that restrict the use of mobile phones however we also spend a lot of time working on our teaching and learning as well as curriculum development
- How do we keep the bridge safe?
Response: We are continuing to try and put CCTV on the bridge however this is fraught with technical difficulties eg overlooking gardens and getting power to the middle of the bridge so as senior leaders including myself and pastoral Support Advisers spend a lot of time monitoring the bridge though of course we can't be there every time someone crosses the bridge. We did outline the number of incidents we have had and while that number is minimal and most are resolved the perception of some students and families is that this is an area we need to continue to supervise closely.
- How do we implement SEND plans?
We discussed how every teacher has access to a SEND child's plan and is expected to transfer this to their Teaching and Learning portfolio so that these strategies are used in their classroom. This is regularly checked by leaders.
- How do we manage student absence?
We outlined the process we go through is a student is absent. This process is supportive and communication between the family and College is really important but we also have to recognise that students only have one chance to get an education and that students who attend regularly tend to achieve more highly.
- How can we make more space for conversations with Parents and Carers?
Here we discussed the various evenings we hold such as settling in evenings and parents' evenings as well as SEND Family Forum and Family Forum which give parents and carers the opportunity to discuss any concerns. We outlined that while we are very different to primary schools we do want to encourage parents and carers not to wait for a problem to become huge before getting in touch which is why tutor, Head of Year and Subject Leader emails are



all available on our website. We also touched on students who lose focus and how we might address that and described the progress matrices at KS3 and the new MEG/AIM targets at Key Stage 3 (ESPA at Post-16) but the main point was to communicate with us as soon as possible if you have any concerns and don't wait for an "official" evening.

- Does the "student worry" button on the website work?

Yes is the answer to this and is used regularly. Where a student points their name next to the concern we have an individual conversation and if it is anonymous, depending on the nature of the concern, we will address through assemblies.

At this point time it was getting late and so the meeting broke up for refreshments and further individual conversations were held with senior leaders.

Many thanks once again for everyone who came along and we look forward to seeing you next term.