

Summary from SNS Parents' Forum November 2017

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended the Parents' Forum on 15th November 2017.

We had a great turnout to hear about:

- Updates from the Chair of Governors and the Headteacher – including on Finances and Partnerships
- Introducing Class Charts
- Moving our school to outstanding – getting parents/carers' views
- Developing our Equalities Strategy

My thanks to all parents and staff involved, including Sarah Owen for the lovely Caribbean food, and Alan Macaskill and Roxanne Lashley for their input.

Updates from the headteacher and Chair of Governors included:

- The governors have been involved in scrutinising examination results for 2017, meeting all Heads of Subject and the senior leadership team; keeping the focus on the longer term for our school and ensuring the school is well led and managed.
- The headteacher gave an overview of school developments including the implementation of the new curricula and the development of oracy across the school.
- The headteacher and Chair of Governors outlined progress on the school finances, including the implementation of some reorganisation. This had largely gone smoothly and the new structures are in place. We agreed to make more detail available via the website. We also noted the success of the national parents' campaign in ensuring the government made more finance available to schools during the summer. There is an ongoing issue with the funding of school places for high need special needs places – this may lead to a reduction in expected funding for mainstream schools.

Ms Lashley gave a demonstration of ClassCharts. Parents were pleased to get this additional information and thanked the school for implementing this.

Ms Gammon talked about the commitment of the whole school to moving to providing an outstanding education for every child. Parents/carers talked in groups about their priorities in taking this forward. There was an interesting and helpful debate which included much praise for the school as it is; the following priorities were suggested:

- Getting more student buy in to learning – some comments about boys/girls; ensuring students mix well in school and develop mixed support groups
- Raising the learning/academic profile – through more academic clubs and after school sessions//more information to parents//teaching students how to study/revise//definite support for use of Period 6
- Having a zero tolerance behaviour policy//ensuring all systems are applied completely consistently//ensuring respect for all adults is embedded early and effectively in Yr 7/8//pastoral support for those students who need it
- Staff visiting outstanding schools//ask the children what they think//have teacher development groups for professional discussion//ensure all groups of parents are involved
- Review lunchtime provision for older students – being allowed out indicates too relaxed an approach
- Tap into parent energy and input – ensuring welcoming forums for all and engaging Year 7 parents

- Keeping the creative focus//parents/PTA to develop funding streams for music//develop higher profile music events

The points outlined above will be discussed by the senior leadership team and governors. We will be recreating our vision and three year strategy over the coming few months so parents/carers should expect further information and opportunities to contribute – particularly during Spring term 2018. Thank you to all involved in contributing.

In terms of the school's Equalities Strategy the following were suggested:

- Ensuring there are welcoming forums for all groups of parents
- Updating parents about progress of all groups of students and what action is being taken
- Working to ensure students mix well

We completed the session with some other questions. There was a further point about who to get in touch with at school which we will re-publicise.

Annie Gammon 19-11-17