



WINTER 2020

Parent Forum Minutes

Agenda item

Comments and Questions

Virtual Awards Evening on 2nd December (presentation from Mr Shilton, Assistant Headteacher). As with everything we are doing virtually, we are trying to be as 'normal' as possible given the circumstances. Streaming the recorded event live is the best alternative to our usual Awards Evening at the Town Hall.

Parents said they were looking forward to it.

What happens in school when we get a confirmed case (presentation from Ms Draycott, Headteacher)

Mr Draycott explained how we perform our own 'track and trace' and notify parents as soon as possible, including at weekends. We have managed to stay open because of stringent application of our Covid measures and regular reminders to pupils (not turning around, etc).

Several parents commented that all the changes necessary due to Covid have been very positive, including timetable modifications (longer lessons) and that some of this could continue post-Covid. School leaders said that they will take this on board and consider continuing some of these practices. Parents also commented that the school's communications throughout the year have been "really good" and impressively timely and clear when a positive case is confirmed.

'Recovery curriculum' and remote learning provision (presentation from Mr Lowbridge-Ellis, Deputy Headteacher)

Mr Lowbridge-Ellis explained how the curriculum has been adapted to recover lost learning, including prioritising the 'foundational knowledge' in each subject and how the online learning has been designed to mirror the in-school curriculum.

Parents credited the school with doing a "grand job" in minimising loss of learning during lockdown and "everything through Teams is very welcome".

Pupil well-being/PSHE (presentation from Mrs Sorensen and Mrs Hill, Assistant Headteachers)

Mrs Sorensen gave examples of the many things school staff had done to support the well being of pupils and families during lockdown.

Mrs Hill explored how the PSHE curriculum had been developed to include more explicit teaching of aspects like mental health and relationships. We are also greatly expanding the oracy work begun during lockdown (e.g. with Talking Points).

Parents commented that they appreciated everything school leaders were doing to adapt to an ever-changing situation.

A parent of pupils who had been at the school from Year 7 and were now in Year 13 said that it was "heartwarming that you treat the child as a whole", as much as the academic side.

Progress Evenings (presentation by Mr Foster)

Mr Foster explained how the Progress Evening system worked virtually and the positive feedback we had received from the two evenings we have done so far.

A parent asked what would happen if they had more than one child in a year group and they were reassured that they would have time for all appointments. Another parent offered their advice.