



# SPRING 2021

## Parent Forum Minutes

### Agenda item

### Comments and Questions

#### From 8th March: everyone returning to school

Ms Draycott about the communications we have sent and the key changes since pupils were in school last time, including face coverings and lateral flow testing.

A parent asked about whether teachers were being prioritised for vaccinations by the government. We confirmed that we weren't, at least for the moment, but our risk assessment is tight with teachers distancing in classrooms and wearing masks wherever distancing is not possible.

#### Remote Learning: survey findings and actions

Mr Lowbridge-Ellis shared with parents the detailed analysis of the parent survey (a summary was sent to all parents in a letter), including the actions taken to improve provision as a result of parent feedback.

A parent said they wanted to echo the thanks we had already received. The routines established for remote learning this time were especially welcome and they felt their children had engaged well.

#### Express Yourself and wellbeing

Mrs Sorensen shared all of the actions we have taken to support families and individual pupils and how we are supporting pupils when they return to school. She spoke about the well-being questionnaire we have issued to help with transition, additional staff training on emotion coaching. We used parental feedback to inform our actions for Mental Health Week, including our Express Yourself challenge afternoons.

A parent thought it was fantastic that we had supported pupils' well-being with a creative approach. A parent asked how Year 13 were being supported with the possible anxieties about careers and progression. Ms Draycott spoke about the careers information we have provided and the continual close work with universities. Ms Draycott noted that universities did not have any warning ahead of us about how Centre Assessed Grades will work so we will continue to work with them as closely as possible. The Head of Sixth Form has been in regular contact with pupils. They have had a talk on resilience from an inspirational guest, PC Rob Pedley. Parents voted on the Express Yourself outcomes to choose an overall winner.

#### KS3 Reports

Mr Foster demonstrated the new Key Stage 3 report which features a new explanatory section and table showing where their child is at. After a lot of parent feedback, we have decided to trial it without the numbers (percentages of objectives achieved).

A Year 8 parent said it was really good, more in line with what they were accustomed to at primary school. They wondered if there was a middle ground which indicated how close or far away they were from being 'Working At' or 'Working Above'. Mr Foster spoke about publishing each subject's objectives and how this should aid understanding of what pupils could be doing to improve. "I all of those suggestions are really welcome thank you."

A parent asked whether it would be a good idea to have a key to GCSE grades and we decided to add this. He also suggested a short video for parents who might forgotten how the report works since they last received a report and we will provide this as well.

#### Boosting Learning

Mr Foster gave an overview of the national picture and the media representation of 'lost' learning. He spoke about how we have already done academic Summer Schools and how we are expanding provision over Easter. We are inviting selected pupils into school. With limited capacity, we are providing boosters to learning online for all to access. Our teachers will provide a pre-quiz, complete the module and then be quizzed again to check their understanding.

"That is an excellent idea to broaden the provision to boost learning. I think that lockdown has impacted on all children so this is fantastic."

A parent asked how pupils could access support if they were struggling with online learning over Easter. This will be made clear in the letter.