



Parents' Forum

2nd November 2017

Attendees

Tom Beaumont

Mark Denton

Samina Kauser

Jolene Lewis

Tabby Naseem

Emma Womble

Loz Wilson, Headteacher

Lorna Wright, Community Engagement Manager

1. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New parents were welcomed to the group and given an introduction to the remit of the Parents' Forum 	
2. School update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted has graded the school as 'Good' with 'Outstanding' for behaviour and welfare of students • The new 9-1 levels will replace the A*-G GCSE gradings for all GCSE subjects next summer. This has created challenges for teachers across the country in predicting outcomes • The summer 2017 exam outcomes have been the best yet for the school but work continues to be done to drive standards up • Students and staff are dedicating 15 minutes of every day to reading. This is to improve literacy standards and promote a love of literature • Daily 'Challenge Time' in class is helping students to build resilience and help develop their skills for working in silence and independent learning; important assets in preparation for future exam conditions. Parents gave positive feedback about the school's progress and asked for their message to be passed on to parents 	

<p>3. Consultation: Knife crime / gang culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nationwide problem of knife and gang crime was discussed • A summary of some of the school's preventative strategies was given: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong pastoral system offering student and family support ○ In-house listening service, welfare officer, nurture group ○ Regular visits from neighbourhood policing team to give updates and hold information sessions ○ Conscious Youth project, working across Dalton and Ashbrow wards ○ North Huddersfield Trust School is leading a Kirklees-wide project in partnership with the Youth Offenders Team to reduce knife crime and educate young people in the dangers of such ○ Cross-curricular projects on crime prevention and positive role models • Parents felt that a letter from the school rather than from Kirklees would hold more value in spreading the word to families • It was agreed that, although the topic is very worrying, it is preferable for the school to tackle the issues head-on and address concerns with students and their families • T Beaumont suggested a school-wide, sustainable project which, as well as promoting preventative strategies, educates students in how to react to a dangerous situation such as being threatened with a weapon, offering practical and realistic advice in partnership with the police and safeguarding teams • The topic will be carried forward to the next meeting for further discussion 	<p>L Wilson</p>
<p>4. Consultation: Lockdown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is now a legal requirement for schools to practice a 'lockdown' situation and parents were consulted on the best way to manage this with students and parents / carers • It was agreed that a pre-lockdown message will be sent to parents to avoid panic • The students will be forewarned of the drill and feedback will be given at the next Parents' Forum 	
<p>5. Any other business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	

Next meeting: Thursday 1st February, 5:30pm