



Parents' Forum

17th May 2018

Attendees

Tom Beaumont
 Mark Denton
 Jolene Lewis
 Tabby Naseem
 Emma Womble
 Loz Wilson, Headteacher
 Lorna Wright, Community Engagement Manager

Apologies

Samina Kauser

1. Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above 	
2. Minutes of last meeting / matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the meeting 1st February were approved. The meeting due on 1st March was cancelled because of snow • The opera performance went extremely well and was reported on the local and national news 	
3. School update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L Wilson informed the forum that he will be leaving the school on 31st August, having taken up a post nearer to home. Ruth Ward, Deputy Head will take on Acting Headteacher until the post is advertised and Portia Taylor, Assistant Head will taking on Acting Deputy for the same period • A new Assistant Head has been appointed to replace Karen Colligan who has left to take up the Headship at All Saints Catholic College. Dominic Murphy joins us in September • Ruth Ward will take over the running of the Parents' Forum from September 2018, with support from another colleague. This also follows L Wright's change of role to Business Manager from September • Mr Wilson confirmed that the school is in a strong position and, despite the upcoming changes, the leadership team will continue to work as a team, with decisions being 	

	<p>made as democratically as they always have been. As always, feedback is welcomed from the Parents' Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is much uncertainty for this summer's exam season as all subjects other than Maths and English hold their first exams under the new GCSE criteria. Staff are working as hard as they can to ensure standards are as high as possible but the difficulties around predictions are being felt in all schools across the country • The school has formed the 'ABC Community Hub' with all of the local schools, including the Catholic schools, to join together to support local families and create opportunities for support and growth • The rehearsals for the summer production of the Wizard of Oz are going well and staff are highly impressed with the quality of students' abilities, particularly those in lead roles • The school has secured 20 free rail tickets to London which will allow GCSE Art students to visit the internationally renowned Monet exhibition at minimal cost. The school's commitment to supporting the arts was commended by members of the forum, acknowledging that this goes against the grain of many schools' current strategies in light of the government's E-Baccalaureate subject weightings 	
<p>4. Consultation: School photos</p> <p>Consultation: School reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School photographs are taken individually at Years 7 and 9 and in groups at Year 11. Last year only 21 sets were purchased and the school office has asked the forum to consider the cost worthiness of this process, which takes several days' man hours every year • Although at least one member of the forum is a regular purchaser of the photographs, all agreed that the levels of sales did not justify continuing with the service, although asked whether the school photographs used internally for the school system could be emailed out to parents as a keepsake. This will be investigated by the office team • The majority (if not all) of High schools across Kirklees no longer issue full reports to parents on an annual basis, opting instead for a more regular, single sheet update. At NHTS we send out a single sheet summary 4 times per year as well as a full annual report which includes a written summary of the students' progress in each subject. The proposal is to remove the full report from the annual cycle but to add slightly more detail to the 4 regular interim reports so that parents can see where they can support areas for development • Following discussion, it was agreed to present samples of the two options at the next Parents' Forum and Portia Taylor, Assistant Head, will be invited to attend 	

<p>Consultation: Weekly parent bulletin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the school issues 3 newsletters per year. It is proposed that, in addition to this, a weekly bulletin will be sent electronically to parents, containing a snapshot of the school calendar and other relevant information • It was suggested that this also includes regular adverts for the Parents' Forum, including a summary of discussions at the previous meeting to encourage attendance at future meetings • The proposal was agreed 	
<p>5. Any other business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming dates were confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saturday 30th June Deighton Carnival ○ Saturday 7th July Huddersfield Literature Festival / Family Fun Day ○ Thursday 12th July Wizard of Oz ○ Tuesday 17th July Prize-giving evening • M Denton congratulated the school on its prizes at the recent Volunteer Awards Evening and all who attended commented on the fantastic performances by the NHTS Choir 	

Next meeting: Thursday 12th July, 5:30pm