

Parent Council Meeting Minutes January 9th 2019

Agenda explained and agreed and TFO informed parents where this had come from.

Updates - Following previous discussions

Mobile Phone policy changes - TFO explained that Staff were in agreement with what the last parent council discussed around, clarity, implementation and sanctions. This is leading to these changes being taken forward to the student body before a draft policy will be in place to be shown to the parent council at their next meeting.

Lockers - At the previous meeting the question about lockers was raised, unfortunately at this time there is neither the physical space or the finances to be able to provide lockers for the students.

Sports and other clubs - TFO stated that hopefully following on from the last meeting that parents should have been receiving school coms messages if any clubs had been cancelled. Parents were in agreement that this had indeed been happening.

Agenda Items for discussion

Student Leadership and ambassadors - At other schools Student leadership (head boy, head girl ETC is taken on by year 12 students, therefore leaving year 13 for A levels. Rebecca Banks former deputy head girl was in attendance to the meeting and agreed that moving this forward could be an option - TFO will speak to the leadership of the 6th form regarding this. The ambassadorial role played by other students in leadership roles, I.E prefects and house heroes could be better used within the community. The council alone, came up with the following list and we can explore this further through fortnightly focus and speaking to voluntary groups.

- Keep tavy tidy
- Tavistock in bloom
- Enrichment fair publicity (6th form)
- Memory Cafe
- DofE experiences
- Goosey Fair volunteers in the old cattle market
- Food bank Tavistock
- NCS
- Linking with Scouts

Food at the college - Several points here

Gateway - TFO with raise these points with the correct people

- Is it possible to have a family account for gateway when parents have multiple children on the account?
- Can we reduce the lower limit to £5 - lots of parents use the system as a backup and £10 is often too much.

Too much Sugar - Esp in the Drinks

TFO explained that there was a difference in the drinks sold in the refectory and in shops, I.E. they have to be school compliant and that normally means, ZERO added sugar, however that Miss Hodge had recently done a sugar smart assessment of all our drinks sold in the refectory and that changes would be coming in (i have since been to the refectory and some drinks will be gone as soon as they run out and not replenished).

Lists of available drinks will be put into the fortnightly focus to support parents and students making healthier choices.

Vegetarian and Vegan food

There is an apparent lack of choice for vegetarians and vegans - TFO suggested that we set up a student voice group and they could work with the catering manager Clare Worth to work to bring about changes that both financially viable and tasty!!!

Uniform

There was a lengthy discussion around this subject with many views portrayed. Below is a summary of parental emotions, ideas and viewpoints as well as some movements of moving forward.

On the whole parents in attendance are in support of the college, its uniform and the policies that surround it, however there is huge frustration around the implementation and consistency of the current policy. Specifically around skirts.

Parents are aware of the battles that certain staff have with certain students and state that they have these battles themselves at home with their children, they want to support the school and the staff but get frustrated with the lack of consistencies. There is an awareness that staff do not want to ruin the positive relationship that they have with students however there is a lack of fairness in the current situation.

Parents told of examples of their children not being challenged until lunchtime on one day, tutor the next and not at all the day after, this can only lead to students feeling that they are in control.

All agreed that students should feel proud of their uniform, be told about why we have a uniform and why its so important. The use of assemblies, prefects and a constant message needs to be discussed. This includes a constant feed into the fortnightly publication from now until the school skirts become part of the compulsory Uniform in September 2019.

TFO stated that we will look into the opportunity to have 'skirts for borrowing' if students come to school ill dressed.

AOB's

Student bulletin to be emailed out or placed on a google classroom so anyone who might miss information can access it? - TFO to ask the question of the correct people

School Coms - can this go to both parents on the SIMS system? TFO to ask the question of the correct people.

Parent council could offer to run a second hand uniform shop for those parents that find it hard to pay for the college uniform - TFO will follow this up with JP

Item Agendas for the next meeting

The rewards point system

Second hand recycling uniform shop

Any business emailed to Jo Perrse before the next meeting