

City of Rochester School Parent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday 4th March 2021

Present: Kelly Lovell Assistant Head - Pastoral, Welfare & Inclusion, Lindsay Baker- Parent, Victoria Crone-Kontemeniotis -Parent, Tara Warner-Parent, Alison Barton – Pupil Wellbeing and Behaviour Co-ordinator, Alicja Emmett - Headteacher

Topic Discussed	Ideas/actions
Policy update	Kelly advised the parents that the teaching and learning policy is being put on the website we will send all the parental advisory group members a copy to read and give feedback to the school.
COVID and general safety arrangements.	<p>The plan is for pupils to continue to be tested in school twice a week, as this has been working and was felt to be running successfully, than perhaps parents carrying out testing at home. Staff have been issued with home testing kits and will continue to test twice weekly. Parents were given the opportunity to test their children at home if they wanted and kits have been sent to those parents who wanted them.</p> <p>Kelly explained that the testing area has now been changed to the First Aid room as it more private.</p>
Returning to school	Parents did not have any concerns about safety precautions in school. They said we have a good routine in place. There will be a transition plan for some students. Some students have already come back in successfully.
Parental workshops	<p>Dates have now already been set for the following:</p> <p>Tuesday 30th March OT – role of the OT in school and a question and answer session. Parents will be offered individual slots if required.</p> <p>Tuesday 27th April - Nikki, Play Therapist.</p> <p>Tuesday 25th May – Jutta, Speech and Language.</p> <p>Tuesday 24th June - Tracy Mapp, Behaviour Specialist.</p> <p>Tuesday 14th July - PC Richard Jones, Online safety.</p> <p>Suggestions were made for other workshops as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SENDIAS • Sleep Hygiene • Dietary – allergies, fussy eaters, weight loss or gain, medication affecting weight. <p>Coffee morning dates to be confirmed offering parents a chance to catch up and chat - these will be via Zoom in the interim. We have a venue locally that we will be able to use once lockdown restrictions have been lifted</p>
Curriculum updates	<p>BTEC in construction is shortly going to be launched. This will include: painting and decorating, carpentry, building, tiling and basic plumbing</p> <p>Work is ongoing to increase the curriculum subjects the school can offer. Parents thought the sex education links look good but will be challenging for teachers to deliver.</p> <p>Vicki asked if we have career advisors. Yes, the school has a full career programme that all pupils will go through. The pandemic has affected some of this – particularly work experience opportunities. Vicki mentioned work internships – which are placements that after a year may be able to offer employment. The school will look into this.</p> <p>The school already has partnerships with White Rocks College Farm which offers various ASDAN awards and BTEC land-based qualifications; Squirrells</p>

	<p>Riding School - therapeutic site providing British Horse Society qualifications up to Level 3 which can lead onto an apprenticeship.</p> <p>In the pipeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational Training Centre in Sittingbourne - which offer motor vehicle engineering and welding • A local farm • A local garden centre • Cyclone Park in Gravesend <p>Bemix in the Pentagon Centre was suggested. The school will investigate this further.</p>
Wellbeing and welfare	<p>Very busy at present. Counsellors are currently available for parents as well as students. 0-25 Disability referrals have increased.</p> <p>Suggestions of support available: short breaks, NELFT, Family Fund, which is income related but can provide laptops, iPads etc. We have application forms for Family Fund available to parents if anyone would like a hard copy. Parent Hub is going to be created on site which will allow access to resources and to advise on entitlements.</p>
Covid Catch up fund	<p>Questionnaire sent out to parents. Catch up sessions will be on Mondays and Thursdays after the Easter break. Also learning days are being planned to take place in the holidays, they will be fun activities based around numeracy and literacy and other curriculum outcomes.</p> <p>The school are looking into access to an online library to boost reading</p> <p>Assessments will be carried out on all pupils to ascertain gaps in learning. Some parents have requested homework. A partnership with Faversham Football club is being arranged.</p> <p>Tara thinks catch up clubs will be good but feels she will struggle to get Billy-Jay to attend as his brother will be at home, Vicki said she will have the same problem with Theo. It was suggested they need a more fun name to encourage students to take part. The school will take this forward.</p>
AOB	<p>Vicki would like a reminder to be put on Facebook that transport forms for September needed to be completed by 9th March. Post has been held up so some parents may not have had a letter to remind them. The transport is only for Medway pupils not Kent pupils.</p>
Meetings	<p>Next meeting 23rd April 2021 at 10.30AM</p>