

## Parent Action Group

This group is organised and facilitated by parents Kate Stone, Sharon Jackopson and Nicola McArdle.

At this group we do not envisage a fixed constitution and terms of reference but the following are some proposed guiding principles that may be useful. These have been put together from suggestions made at the Blueprint meeting of July 2013 and comments from 24<sup>th</sup> Oct meeting. Any bright ideas welcome.

**WHO?** : All parents are welcome, others by invitation. Our aim is to have representation from all subgroups of students. Everyone has a role in achieving this. No commitment is required; parents may attend whichever meetings look interesting.

**WHAT?** : Each meeting will have a theme or themes. Topics to be decided by parents and this should be advertised in advance. It is not a forum for individual grievances – these should be raised directly with school.

**WHY?** : People will only come to such meetings if they feel it is worthwhile. It is therefore essential that outcomes from meetings should be communicated to parents (in a timely manner). It was suggested that the Headteacher should contact all those present detailing what actions he will be taking as a result of what he heard. The website and Newsletter can also be used to provide follow up for parents.

### **Key points raised at both the Blueprint Evening and the Launch event:**

- More evenings/socials specific to year groups

PROGRESS: USH will be launching these after Christmas.

- Online booking system for parents' evening

PROGRESS: This will be launched soon. Watch out for announcements.

- What would Parent Communication Group look like?
  - Representatives from all year groups.

PROGRESS: All Year groups were represented at the last meeting

- Parents have access to representative/forum people.

PROGRESS: The contact button on this page puts you directly in touch with the Parent Action Group organisers.

- A problem solving ethos should be established

PROGRESS: The capture of solutions and ideas is now a key feature of the meetings and parents remarked on the open communication which 'feels' different to previous forum meetings.

- Bilateral 'Thinking Maps' and 'Thinking out of the Box'

PROGRESS: Blue sky thinking will be added to a future agenda of the Parent Action Group.

- Use feedback from forums for future agendas

PROGRESS: This is now a feature of the meetings - look out for the next agenda coming soon.

- After meetings, send out minutes to attendees

PROGRESS: This is now happening.

- School Council contribution

PROGRESS: Students will be invited to a future meeting.

### Key things happening now as a result of these meetings:

1. More effective and consistent use of planners

PROGRESS: An improved monitoring procedure and tutor checking schedule is now in place.

2. A zero tolerance approach to phones in lessons

PROGRESS: This is the policy at USH and a confiscation rule will feature in the new Behaviour and Relationship Policy coming to the parent Action Group soon.

3. Further improvement of the homework policy

PROGRESS: A new policy has been launched to all parents and students which includes ensuring staff issue exercise and text books to go home as a matter of course.

4. Eradicating off-task chatter in lessons

PROGRESS: This will be featured in our new Behaviour and Relationship Policy. Miss Fox (our new guidance and Achievement Coordinator) and Mr Wilding will be working with departments to secure outstanding learning behaviour for all groups of students. Staff have been addressed directly and instructed to uphold our core value of respect: ensuring no one talks over each other. The impact of this will be measured through lesson observations, student feedback meetings and senior leader learning walks.

### Parent wish list:



- Sports facilities (tennis courts, running track, indoor gym)



- More toilets

- Canteen (increase in size)

- Aid conditioning/better ventilation

- More after school activities

- Downtime skills/managing stress/anxiety

- Water sports/skills activities

- Library – more books, good ICT access

- New minibus

- Manual skills development, vocational training dept

- Sport equipment and facilities/swimming pool

- Common room – somewhere for students to sit at break/lunch to eat/chat.

- Hall/performance space – multi-purpose

- New music block with practice rooms

- New/revamped nice-smelling gym

- Library

- Gardening, mechanics, woodworking, washing/ironing, life skills

- Archaeology

- Common area, performance space.



Thanks for all the suggestions. News on developments to follow.