

## Parent Forum 24-25 - Meeting Date: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **Attendees:**

Parents:

S & K

School Staff:

Matt Stace

Helen Connett

### **MINUTES**

#### Matters arising from last meeting:

Newsletter forum update created by Helen. ACTIONED

Next forum meeting to be at 6pm with all parents invited to attend with the agenda shared in the newsletter ahead of the meeting. ACTIONED

#### AGENDA

1. Recap terms of reference - **deferred to next meeting**
2. Recap action plan  
**Helen discussed the parent forum action plan and the focus on support for transitions. It was noted that the transition offer has improved greatly over the last two years. This is particularly true for parents of children starting in Foundation. It was noted that the 'careers fair' style sessions were very successful, and the plan is that these will continue.**
3. 'Things I wish I had known' ideas to be shared and collated - **deferred to future meeting due to low attendance numbers.**
4. AOB raised by attendees  
**Parents noted that the newsletter is still not working for parents. K noted that home-school communication was more effective using the Seesaw app. Helen discussed the impact of the Seesaw app on staff well-being. She noted that there was a huge amount of traffic to teachers through the app which was difficult to manage as there were no settings for out of hours etc. A discussion took place as to whether the newsletter could be texted to parents. Parents felt that this would be a helpful adjustment. Parents feedback that the newsletter includes a lot of information which can make it difficult to identify the key pieces of information that need to be actioned. Parents suggested the use of notice boards to reinforce the key weekly information. A suggestion was made that a noticeboard at the rainbow gates would be useful. Helen noted that a notice board at both the front and back exit of the school might be useful. K felt that parents may simply walk past a noticeboard at the blue front gate. She suggested sandwich boards could be used. Parents suggested that there could be a printable option of "what's coming up" which could be placed on the notice board.**

**A discussion took place about the calendar on the website. This does not have all school events recorded. S noted that invitations to events would be helpful**

for parents. She suggested links to events could be shared. Parents could then click the link, and it would appear in their own calendar.

Helen discussed the low attendance at parent forum meetings and other parent sessions. S and K suggested information about parent events could be directly emailed and suggested that a TEAMS session might be helpful to secure higher attendance. Parents did note that it feels like an 'uphill battle' to engage parents. Helen suggested that parent evenings might be utilised to get feedback and engage parents. It was suggested that a 'careers fair' type event could co-occur with parent evenings. S and K noted that COVID had an impact on homeschool relationships at Boringdon. They felt there were some legacy issues due to there being a lack of school events during and post COVID.

A discussion took place about how being a member of the PTA helps home-school communication for those involved. K suggested it may be helpful to have a staff member on the parents WhatsApp group or to create a school WhatsApp group. Discussion took place about the difficulty of having staff in parent message groups.

Matt noted the vision for Boringdon to become a top performing school both in the classroom and outside. Presently, there is a focus on increasing the number of clubs, extra-curricular activities and trips available to pupils. This has created additional workload for teachers. It is therefore important to be mindful of managing teacher workload and not unnecessarily increasing their workload.

Matt noted that presently there is a significant cultural change happening at Boringdon. Matt is keen that there are more events for parents which feel 'low threat'. This has been seen with the new showcase events.

Both K and S noted that parents that Boringdon may have skills that they would be willing to share to support the school.

K asked about how school is supporting neuro diversity. Helen discussed the PINS project which the school is involved in, and also special school outreach. K noted, at recent training, it had been suggested that schools were integrating pupils with SEN rather than including them. Helen discussed inclusion that is embedded in lesson design at Boringdon. Helen noted that it can be difficult for people not involved in schools to understand the reality of what is happening in the day-to-day life of pupils. It was suggested that parents might benefit from being able to see lessons or a recorded lesson. It was suggested that a podcast may be helpful. Matt noted a similar strategy being used at Chaddlewood. It was suggested that CapCup may be used to make Instagram reels. There may be some safeguarding issues around managing this. It may be possible to get some of the children to make videos to use on the website / social media.

Actions for agreed.

- Consider use of noticeboards to display key school events
- Matt and Helen to consider events that may co-occur with parents evenings
- School staff to investigate whether the newsletter could be sent through text message.  
*It was noted that presently there would be a charge associated with this.*
- Calendar links to be attached to the newsletter if possible.
- 'Careers Fair' events to continue. *S noted that Citizens Advice were likely to be happy to attend such events and Helen noted how useful this would be for a lot of our parents.*
- Matt and Helen to discuss opportunities for pupils to make resources that could be shared on the website and in the newsletter. This might link to School council and so a discussion should take place with S Thomas.
- School staff to consider how a networking event could be created to encourage parent volunteers to support schoolwork.

Next Meeting: March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the Mayflower Hall/ Conference Room