

Parent Council News – Monday 21st January 2019

Update on mental health.

Meeting organised Friday 25th January morning training for all primary staff in the area (12 school consortium). This is free training with MIND, is school focussed and provides a way of signposting pupils – it will be run over 3 years. This will also include UVHS staff.

Question asked:

Do we have any mental health first aiders?

We have 4 in school. This training is more for awareness.

Would it pay to have fewer staff but trained well?

Government guidelines say all teachers to have this level of training, so we want to get it done. We discussed implications for teacher training. One parent suggested that signposting information on the website would help people know where to go if they need help. RBu will look into this June – Sept.

Discussed wellbeing document and the new changes for Cumbria pathway for dealing with mental health.

School facilities.

RBu is in discussion with the Football Association over putting in a 3G (pitch long grass with rubber base) on the UVHS site. The FA have given backing to match funding of £350,000, so we would need to raise £350,000 ourselves.

RBu is also meeting Better Leisure over funding. The hope would be to get an indoor tennis court on school site. A parent said it would be helpful to approach the LTA (tennis).

Question asked: *How much of the grounds would be used?*

What is currently the outdoor tennis courts and the grassy area below for the 3G pitch. Would have to have a new layer of security fencing. It would become a community project.

School trips.

Interesting discussion about last summer's Year 10 trip to Trafford Centre – the school wants to change this.

This year, the trip will be 2 days at the YMCA at Newby Bridge with Year 10. This has been well supported amongst staff.

Year 7s are doing the John Muir Award.

Most language trips will go the week before Enrichment Week and the Wind Band Trip is always the last week of term to avoid disruption.

Year 11 Revision.

Training has been delivered to teachers and support staff on revision and memory techniques. This was discussed, as were methods of revision.

We will make Year 11 Parents' Exam Preparation Evening earlier this year and will also look at the timing of year 13 Parents' Evening.

The revision techniques information will be put on the school website for parents to use. The aim is for Year 7 upwards to use the reviewing process after each lesson and that they learn revision techniques early on so that it becomes it part of the everyday school experience.

Seneca online – RBU is looking at whole school use.

AoB

Allergy issue from last time – advice will be reissued. The school is standing by the no-nuts policy but will be clarifying the policy around peanuts. We can't control everything but we have put up signage.

Vegan ingredients are stored securely in food technology rooms.

With regard to thanking orienteering staff – RBU says a letter to volunteer staff will come out. We did give a well done to the students. Prize giving – it is impossible to mention everyone, but this will be reconsidered next year as won British Schools.

Discussion of grades allocated in tests.

Questions asked: *Are they allocated using grade boundaries?*

Yes – an achievement rather than a comparison – using grade boundaries.