

Meeting of the parent council Monday 26/9/22

6 parents present plus ADe, ASm, CBI

The Parent Council

Parents were welcomed and introduced and there was a discussion about the purpose of the Parent Council.

The School Improvement Plan

The school Improvement Plan summary document was distributed. Parents asked for more detail on the plan. The full [School Improvement Document](#) can be found using this link or on the school website; this gives all details of the school's improvement agenda.

Parental areas for discussion

- **Homework.**

Parents requested clarification on why we ask for planners to be signed. They also drew attention to the fact that they can now check homework in planners, on Teams and on Edulink and wondered if this is overkill. School will publish clarification on these issues. Teachers will also be reminded that homework should always be added to Teams. Parents asked if they could be given their children's logins for Teams and requested that homework be added in good time and not late in the evening. Discussion of accessing homework on Teams – do pupils have the internet at home? School makes computers available to children before and after school and at lunchtime so if any students have problems accessing the internet they can do so here. The school will further publicise homework club to parents and pupils. This is a voluntary homework club which takes place in Townlands at both lunchtimes and after school.

- **Vaping**

Parents asked about the school's position on vaping. We take this extremely seriously and are working to highlight the dangers. Students are sanctioned for the possession or use of vapes.

- **Food and nutrition**

Parents asked what we we teach regarding food and nutrition? Discussion about also educating parents on these essential life skills. Can parents be invited to Crumble club or a similar food club? Sixth form cooking club/lesson?

- **Wellbeing**

Social Media – How to manage social media usage – is this taught? All students have lessons on using computers safely. General discussion about more communication being online today. Discussion about current provision and training related to suicide prevention and mental health.

- **Drugs**

If any students are involved with illegal substance abuse/trade the school will apply the appropriate and necessary sanction. We take this extremely seriously. Our school nurse delivers training to students on the risks and dangers associated with drugs. Our Safeguarding Lead will be invited to a future meeting to give more detail on this and mental health support.

- **Literacy and Communication**

We are buying 'Bookbuzz', which gives every pupil in Year 7 a free book. Reading improves literacy across the board and leads to greater opportunities. We have money for it this year but will need to find money for it next year. Literacy is key to pupils accessing their final exams. Literacy in form time – tutors read to pupils which is very powerful. During form time reading sessions, students complete a range of structured activities around the reading of fiction and then non-fiction. Disciplinary literacy (reading and writing like a scientist or mathematician etc.); school is developing more of a focus on this including the specific teaching of subject specific tier 3 vocabulary. They also teach the common command words which appear in exams. Parents asked how do we sustain the momentum with Y7 in terms of reading? This is done through the School Library and librarian. Year 7 will all be getting a reading passport which encourages a wide range of reading.

- **Next meeting**

Mrs Ford will be attending the next meeting to share details about our Year 7 Skills for Learning for Life programme.