

## **The Latymer School Parent/Carers Forum**

### **Notes of the Meeting Held 1 May 2008**

**Present:** C Wakefield (Chair), S. Andreoli, P. Armstrong, J. Evans, C. Johnston, H Pedro, J Jones, J Lederhose, D. Rishi, M. Shepherd, L Taner, M Wilsher

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

1.1. Apologies had been received from: P Biswas, S Jones, S. Kavanagh, C King, G Norcliffe

#### **2. Notes of the last meeting**

2.1. Accuracy. The notes were held to be a accurate record of the meeting.

##### **2.2. Matters arising**

2.2.1. It was agreed that further publication of the crime statistics outside the school community was unnecessary.

##### **2.2.2. Year 9 Parents Evenings/Option choices timing.**

Mr Wakefield explained that it was the view of the School that all students have the potential to take any subject at GCSE.

Teachers are discouraged from “canvassing” for particular subjects. All students are able, and are encouraged to speak to teaching staff to seek advice when making their option choices. It was suggested that students be reminded of this opportunity, and that it might be helpful to explain why the timing of these two events has been chosen in the letter to parents advising of the programme of events.

**Action:** WKE to feedback to Ms Beskeen

##### **2.2.3. Year 11 Parents Evening**

Mr Wakefield explained that although the parents evening was held early in the term, and came quite quickly after the year 10 Parents Evening, it is felt that leaving it until after the results of the Mocks were known was leaving it too late to take any necessary remedial action.

#### **3. Security**

3.1. Feedback was sought from the Forum on a proposal that students in years 10 and 11 should not be permitted to leave the premises during break or lunch. It was agreed that the school should continue to monitor security but not to ban implement the proposal at this time.

**Action:** WKE to feedback

#### **4. Variability of Homework Load – Year 7**

4.1. This item had been submitted by P Biswas who had sent apologies. Comments were invited. A member of the Forum had noticed some variability of homework over different days of the week. However, this had not been noted as an issue by other Forum members.

#### **5. Year 7 Assessments in their first term.**

5.1. This item had been submitted by P Biswas who had sent apologies. Comments were invited. It was largely agreed that making it unusual to receive the top grade for performance helped to avoid complacency and recognised achievements that really were beyond what was expected at Latymer. It was noted that “postcards home” to bring attention to a particular achievement was appreciated.

## 6. Any Other Business

6.1. Some parents had asked a member of the Forum to raise a recent letter from the Head with regard to an incident concerning a Latymer student. As the letter had been personally addressed, some parents had been alarmed on first opening the letter in case the incident concerned their child. It was agreed that this would be very quickly overcome on reading the letter.

6.2. A Forum member asked why parents had been informed of the incident at all. Mr Wakefield explained that this had been a very difficult decision. In the end, and despite the constraints on what information could be made available, it was decided that it was better that the School write to parents rather than have them alarmed by rumours circulating and any possible publicity that may have been generated.

6.3. A Forum member felt that portion sizes at lunch are too small.

**Action:** WKE to feed back

6.4. A list of extra-curricular activities had been posted on the intranet. Mr Wakefield was asked to pass on thanks from the Forum.

6.5. A Forum member had noted that the 20mph sign at the top of Haselbury Road with the junction of Church St, actually faces into Church St and not into Haselbury Road and felt that it would be helpful to have this moved to remind drivers that Haselbury Road is a 20mph zone. **Action:** WKE to feed back