



12<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Report from Parent / Carer Forum

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October

### Parental Engagement:

For good parental engagement, it was identified that the school and parents had certain responsibilities:

- School;**
- Communicates** - keeps parents informed and up to date using a variety of communication, (e mail, letter, website, phone calls and planner)
  - Trustworthy** follows up on promises immediately, eg. awarding vivos and postcards
  - Values every student**, provides targeted support and communication, personalised letters and postcards home.
- Parent;**
- Responds to letters, reads information, turns up to meetings, voices concerns, checks the website regularly, uses the power of word of mouth to share news and information, is consistent, encourages after school involvement.

### Information and Communication

#### Summary

Parents requested:

- advance notice of dates; for assessments and events
- More electronic communication, and / or choice of communication
- More regular communication, eg. Fortnightly newsletter
- More information on extra-curricular activities and how students sign up
- More information on the curriculum for each year group
- More information on vivos, show my homework and procedures for medical appointments etc.
- Email address of form tutor
- Target communication. For example, Student X is struggling to understand algebra, or the themes in a play. Staff to contact home, and suggest resources where the parents and students can work together, or invite to coffee morning/enrichment/point to resources on website
- More interaction between older and younger students for academic and emotional support
- More information about teaching methods – as workshops in school with a greater flexibility around timing, and online

- Means for students to anonymously report bullying / emotional concerns using a button on the website. (in place with Sharp)
- Teacher surgery
- For the school to ensure that both parents received communication at the same time and only one letter goes to a family if there are two in the same year.
- In order to reach those hard to engage, hold meetings in buildings other than the school and hold a social event.

### **Actions**

- Add events section to the planner for students to add to, and add in known school wide dates, eg. Arts evening to the day on the planner like public holidays are added on a diary
- Identify and iron out problems with Show my Homework
- Add website walkthrough to next agenda
- Investigate the possibility of a registration to the website
- Investigate the possibility of registering to receive communication via e mail and not letter
- Investigate more effective use of twitter
- Add to curriculum section of website, some resources where the parents can access information, names of books and websites, and some cultural activities in the area they can visit for enrichment. For example, Erdigg castle to view a motte and bailey castle for year 7 history, or the play of year 11 set text will be on at Manchester Palace theatre this year
- Investigate the possibility of year 7 parent handbook / meeting, explaining how to use vivos, show my homework, school policy and procedure etc.
- Investigate use of peer 'buddies' as part of anti-bullying ambassadors, student led homework club through student leadership
- Investigate teacher videos to be added to more secure area of website
- Repeat coffee mornings on a carousel as part of enrichment morning in February
- Ensure SHARP system launch is communicated

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Report on developments
- Website walkthrough
- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Parents as volunteers
- Social evening
- Means to request support – targeted communication a two way process