

St Luke's Science and Sports College
Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 17th May 2011

Present: L Jewell; C. Hepworth Wain; M. Ebbatson; L Dennis; H Conway

Apologies: P & N Jeffery, M & S Waite; A Ridgeley; D. Willingham
C Stopforth Knowles;

The Minutes from the previous meeting on 01.02.11 were read out and agreed.

Y7 Parents Evening

Parents were very pleased with the proposed new format for the Y7 Parents Evening on Wednesday 25th May. They thought the range of activities on offer would create a relaxed atmosphere and encourage parents to stay and browse / spend the evening in school after they had seen teachers. Parents were also pleased that it had been extended by an hour until 7pm. This would offer greater flexibility to parents, allowing them to see all the teachers they want to without rushing. The following link will take you to the Y7 Parents Evening page on the school website.

http://www.st-lukes.devon.sch.uk/one_box.php?art=178

Update on the 'Back to School Evening'

At the last meeting (01.02.11), Clare asked if parents would be interested in attending / getting involved in running a 'Back to School' evening. Parents said they would definitely attend and it was worth while running one again, especially as it was so successful last time it was run. (The idea of the evening is for parents to follow a timetable of 'mini' classes being 'taught' by students so they get more of an idea of *what* and *how* their children are learning). The action point was to ask SLT to choose a suitable date so that parents could promote / get involved in the evening. Clare reported back last night that she is still awaiting a date / confirmation from SLT.

Action Point:

Clare to go back to SLT and ask for a date for the 'Back to School' evening.

Arrangements for Sampling Day

It is Sampling Day for the new intake year 7 students on Thursday 7th July.

We plan to hold a new Sampling Evening for their parents on Wednesday 6th July.

Parents often bring their child with them to this evening.

This year we are responding to parental requests by involving tutors to the evening as parents say this is the most important and reassuring contact they need to make when their child is moving up to Secondary school.

The Sampling Evening will be from 4pm - 5.30pm. There will be a brief welcome in the hall of about 20 minutes and then Heads of House and tutors will go off to areas to meet parents. The parents will then return to the hall for a brief Q&A session and goodbyes. The school hopes this personal contact with tutors will be really helpful to all concerned and will allay many fears for children and their families.

Action Point:

If any parents are interested in representing the parent group and drumming up support to recruit the Year 6 parents at this event, please e mail me to let me know. At the moment Mrs Ebbatson and Mrs Conway have agreed to attend. Clare to provide a display board for Parents Group in the atrium.

Arrangements for Y11s

The current Y11s leave us on Friday May 20th. They will still come into school for specific revision lessons / exams. They will have their prom on Friday 24th June.

AOB

E-Contact

Parents are still frustrated by the e-contact system. Some parents never receive any communication, even though they specifically signed up for this.

Action Point:

Clare to check with Emma Fry (ICT Systems Manager) that all e-contact email addresses were retained when the system changed as some parents still aren't receiving much information via e-contact.

Action Point

Clare to ask Emma Fry (ICT Systems Manager) to put an e-contact reminder on the school website and in the school newsletter to encourage parents to 'opt in' to e-contact reminders.

Sports Day

Sports Day this year is on Friday 1st July. It is likely to follow a similar format to last year, with students will be taking part in small teams doing a carousel of numerous games: Handball, Tag Rugby, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Badminton, Athletics, and Rounders. All students will be involved.

Action Point:

Clare to e mail PE staff to find out if parents will be invited to watch their children take part.

First day of New Term

The first day back for students is Monday September 5th. Staff will come back on Thursday September 1st for 2 inset days.

A letter will go out to all parents at the end of this summer term, detailing useful information for the start of the new autumn term on 05.09.11

Letters of praise.

Parents were pleased to receive letters and postcards home and asked that The Principal / HOH continue to do this.

Writing Competition

A new creative writing competition will start in tutor time soon. Details to follow on the school website.

Smoking in the girls toilets

One parent complained her Y7 daughter does not like using the girl's toilets because they smell of smoke and cigarette butts are in the toilet / sink. This is often worse in the afternoon.

Action Point:

Clare will inform SLT / HOH and ask them to be vigilant.

Can we call ourselves the Parents Group on the website?

Parents have been asking for a while and all present tonight agreed it was about time. No one in the group refers to themselves as being part of Parents Council. Everyone uses the term Parents Group.

Action Point:

Clare will speak to the ICT Technicians and get the Parents Council webpage button / webpage title changed to Parents Group.

The date of the next meeting is:

Tuesday 21st June 6.30pm in the Library.