

**Parent Group Meeting**

**21.10.15**

**Staff Room. 5.30-7pm**

**Present:**

STAFF: Dave Holt; Gail Whalley; Kate Humpherys; Laura Pattison.

PARENTS: Rhona Howell; Angela Vinelott; Julia Hocking; Maria Waite; Lisa Martin; Paul Martin; Mandy Ebbatson; Debbie Jones; Ben Bunting.

**Apologies:** Tracey Jackman; Helen Brooks

Dave Holt welcomed everybody to the meeting. He talked about our focus this year and our main priorities which are:

- Maths & science
- Challenging all years particularly KS3 (Years 7,8&9)
- Narrowing the achievement gap, especially for Pupil Premium children.

The Pupil Premium is targeted at students who have received free school meals in the last 6 years, students from a forces family or 'looked after' students, to help them achieve more in their academic and social lives.

Pupil premium students have a parents evening to meet with tutors. Parents can discuss with students how best to support these children.

Parents can use the website to see how money is spent on Pupil Premium Students.

There is a link on the website for parents to fill in an Ofsted questionnaire. The results so far show we are making significant improvements and advances particularly in terms of communication. The settling in evening was also very beneficial to parents. On the whole parents are extremely happy. This was echoed by parents at the meeting who talked about the positive feelings towards St Luke's in the primary schools and community. Once again we are oversubscribed with parents picking St Luke's as first choice for their children.

Gail Whalley spoke to the group about St Luke's homework policy and how we are preparing students for a move towards linear exams.

The VLE is being used more and more. Students are using the VLE for homework. Staff, parents and students need to collaborate in order for the VLE to work. Parents feel the homework planner is currently still needed. Homework prompts (ie H/Wk on VLE) can be written in planners so students don't forget and as evidence for parents to check amount of homework their children receive.

Parents spoke highly about the longer term homework 'projects' as this was good for focus & engagement as well as outside classroom learning and parent involvement. They feel the purpose of homework is clear and students are aware about being responsible

for their own learning, however, parents would like to know more about when homework is set/marked/feedback given for the weekly homework tasks.

**Action:**

- Staff to do a trawl on homework and feedback results and action points at the next meeting
- Presentations about the VLE at Parents evenings as many parents are still unaware of how/why it is used
- 'VLE for dummies' with some screenshots and explanations to be sent to parents via school comms.

Parents that trialled the School Comms app since the last meeting found it to be very successful.

**Action:** Dr Kerslake's name needs to be removed as email sender. Some parents believed the email to be spam and deleted it.

Once again, we thank you for taking the time to attend these meetings throughout the year. Your input is really valued by us. Have a great Christmas. See you in the New Year! Laura ☺