

St Luke's Science & Sports College
Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 22nd September 2009. 6.30 p.m

Present: Laura Jewell; Clare Hepworth Wain; Emma Mourant; S Fitzgerald; R Hayes; C Stopforth Knowles; M Waite; S Waite; D Willingham; H Garderner; M Ebbatson; J Bassett; Z Jones; A Ridgeley; C De Wolf; V Arendal; M Rogers

Introductions

Clare introduced herself as the Head of Franklin house and Laura as Cover Supervisor & Parent Liaison Officer as well as Emma Mourant who is the Parent Support Advisor working with 7 of the local primary and secondary schools. New Year 7 parents were welcomed and everybody at the meeting introduced themselves to the rest of the group.

Q & A's

Is it possible to get a printout of smart card purchases so parents can check what their children are buying?

Yes, parents can either ring main reception or e mail me (parentliaison@st-lukes.devon.sch.uk) and we will get a printout of your child's smartcard purchases from the canteen for you.

Is there a canteen menu on the school website?

Yes, on the parents page of the website there is a PDF of the lunch menu.

Where are the minutes from the last parent council meetings?

The minutes are in the archive on the bottom of the parents council page.

Can PE staff please clarify what clothing is compulsory and what is optional and make this clear in sampling books/letters etc?

Staff are looking into revising the list so next years Year 7 parents only buy what is really necessary. The feedback I had from the PE department is -

Basic Kit :

Red Polo Shirt

Black Shorts/Tracksuit bottoms

White/Red Socks

Red Rugby Shirt (Optional but useful as the weather gets colder)

Shin Pads (Optional but Suggested)

Gum Shield (Optional but would be needed if they attended Hockey and Rugby Clubs)

Do D&T sill need craft aprons on the uniform list?

Craft aprons will remain on the uniform list but Design & Technology would like it to be made clear it is optional to purchase. If your child would like their own apron then they can be purchased from Thomas Moores (or any other provider), although D&T provide aprons for students to wear when necessary.

Can we have an update on the extra curricular activities as there seem to be some discrepancies - trampolining is on the website only / tag rugby is not on the list?

Please check the website as the clubs are changing and the current timetable will be updated. If students are in any doubt about which clubs are running and when they can check the notice boards or speak to a member of PE staff.

Can Vicki Tearle - Skilled for Health Coordinator have her extension number put on the website for parents to phone her direct?

Vicki's extension number is 322 and she will make sure that her number is on all promotional information in future as well as on the website.

Other points brought up by parents

- It needs to be made clearer on the school website that the open evening is for Year 6 prospective parents & the cathedral celebration evening is for existing students by invitation only.
- New Year 7's need to be told when they pay for their locker at the beginning of the year that they may not get the locker until the end of September when the lengthy process of collecting money, allocating lockers and handing keys out has been completed.
- Parents asked for clarification on the make up and uniform policy at St Luke's. A small amount of subtle make up is acceptable as are one pair of single stud earrings. Shirts should be tucked in and ties done up with a single knot. Facial piercings are not acceptable for health & safety reasons.

Where can my child go for help?

Clare explained that it works on a tiered system. Students can approach their tutors, Heads of House, Key Stage Assistants (Mrs Sercombe or Mrs Sharratt) or one of our 4 chaplains who would help them to talk through and resolve their issues. If any child expressed a concern or worry to *any* member of staff it would be passed to the appropriate person.

Music Lessons

Parents enquired about music lessons for their children. Students are able to approach their music teachers at any time to discuss taking up an instrument and parents of Year 7 students were told about music lessons at the start of term.

Principal appointment

Anne Ridgeley asked about the Principal vacancy and we were pleased to announce that Mark Pinchin was appointed. He is due to start in January.

Future Events

As a parent group we are keen to get involved in some of the more 'fun' activities at St Luke's. Some of the suggestions were:

- Horse Racing Night
- Medieval joust
- Quiz night

After the great success of last years *Back to School* event parents have asked for that to run again. We would also like to get involved in the talent show and school production. Some parents are really keen to get involved with costumes and scenery as well as providing refreshments and assisting with ticket sales.

Parents were also asked if they would be interested in volunteering to listen to students read in the library. It may only be that you can spare an hour a fortnight but the children really benefit and enjoy having some 1:1 time. Anne has said she would like to get involved. Please e mail me too if you would like to help.

Action: Clare/Laura to speak to James Oxer re parent help for talent show.

Clare/Laura to speak to Ian Potts/Mike Waller re parent help for school production.

A.O.B

Anne asked where the money from last years talent show went. It still isn't in the account.

Action: Clare/Laura to ask Peter Baker

Parents asked where this year's prom was going to be. At this stage it is too early to confirm where and when the prom will take place.

Parent suggested it would be nice if parents were allowed at the venue 'officially' to watch their children and friends arrive. The Parents Council could perhaps be there to help and provide a glass of wine/juice.

Action: Clare/Laura to speak with Oonagh Balue and Key Stage Assistants to consider this when the time comes to organise the prom.

There is a girl's bike to school day on October 7th to try to encourage more girls to cycle to school.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th November. 6.30pm

(Would like a PE / MFL / Science department presentation at one of the future meetings).