

Parent Voice Minutes



Date: Thursday 28 January 2021

Attendees: Lucy Owen (LO) Chair
Andy Fisher (AF)
Rachael Gardiner (RG) Secretary
Jessica Jeffrey (JJ)
Jenni Jenkins (JJen)
Samantha Lannarelli (SL)
Sarah Matthews (SM)
Carolyn Meachem (CM)
Vicky Michaels (VM)
Katherine Patterson (KP)
Gill Platt (GP)
Louise Samways (LS)
Angelina Wilding (AW)

Apologies: Mark Hawtin (MH)
Lakshmi Jeffreys (LJ)
Joy Jones (JJ)
Rachel Rosevear (RR)
Janet Williams (JW)

1. ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The action points from the previous meeting were reviewed. It was noted that CCS were having to provide face masks to children where they were arriving at school without one. AF advised that a parent had kindly donated 10,000 face masks to CCS, so this was no longer an issue.

With regard to the 1,500 laptops that had been ordered, AF advised that the order had been cancelled by the supplier. Following this, it was agreed with the Trustees to purchase 900, slightly more expensive laptops, that CCS were in the process of distributing primary and secondary students that needed them to help with online learning. Any laptops that were not being used had been formatted for when KS3 students returned to CCS.

AF confirmed that the application window was open for sixth form admissions and that 300 applications had been received so far for year 12 places.

AF confirmed that with regard to student attendance and the process in which parents are notified, this would be reviewed once students had returned to school.

2. COVID-19 UPDATE

Before the government announced students would not be returning to school after the Christmas break, CCS was set up and prepared to test students for Covid-19, using lateral flow testing. Currently the school was only open to students of key and critical workers. Teachers and students attending school were being tested twice per week, with part-time teachers being tested each day they visit CCS. So far, two tests had returned positive, which required additional PCR testing. Anyone that tested positive were required to self-isolate at home for ten days.

It was confirmed that the highest number of students tested in one day was 90. CCS were currently trying to work through how they could test all students when they returned. It was thought that it would be necessary to stagger the return of students so that CCS could cope with the volume of testing required. It was possible that primary school students would return first, followed by secondary students.

It was agreed that the secondary online learning guide was very good and helpful for parents as all the necessary information was in one place. The plan for GCSE students was discussed and AF confirmed that students would continue to follow the full curriculum and prepare for exams in the usual way as if they were taking place, until advised otherwise. The consultation regarding exams would shortly be closing and it could take up to 5 weeks for the results to be analysed. Mock exams were taken before Christmas, so it could be those results would contribute to the final grades, alongside teacher grading and coursework.

Teacher and student wellbeing was discussed. AF confirmed that the student welfare team were contacting students regularly to ensure they we're ok or discuss any issues. Any students who were not attending online lessons were also being contacted. It was agreed that attending live lessons all day was tiring for students as they were spending a lot of time on devices. KS3 students were having breaks when they were due to have PE, PSHE and drama lessons, however exam groups were having lessons in all subjects. Independent work for KS3 students was encouraged and teachers were not setting homework. It was confirmed that one afternoon would be dedicated to wellbeing and that students would be encouraged to do activities to improve their wellbeing. AF advised he would discuss this further with Jo Rich.

AF further confirmed that the number of ocular migraines was increasing amongst CCS staff due to working long hours on devices, so staff wellbeing needed to be monitored.

Actions

AF talk to Jo Rich regarding any PE and wellbeing activities that could be set for KS4 students.

AF to provide a Covid-19 update at the next meeting.

3. PARENT SURVEY UPDATE – INITIAL RESPONSES

A survey had been circulated to parents with regard to online learning. 332 responses had so far been received from secondary school children parents and 60 responses from primary school children parents. It was felt that as primary children had only just started online learning, the results were not an accurate reflection of the current position so it was confirmed that further surveys would be sent out.

Where specific issues were raised in the surveys, parents have been contacted to discuss these further. Results showed lots of positive praise for staff, which had been shared with them and had been well received. A large number of parents were positive about online learning as it was good for students to have routine and structure to their day and that independent learning was being encouraged.

The survey highlighted the amount of work some teachers were trying to cover, with 21 comments received about excessive screen time. There were a few comments regarding some students taking the opportunity to misbehave, and it had been necessary for teachers to make phone calls to parents and review the settings in Microsoft Teams to that students were not able to mute others or remove them from meetings.

Actions

AF to provide an update at the next meeting.

4. AOB

Overall, parents were happy with the online learning being provided to students, as it was noted that some schools in the local area were not providing any live lessons at all.

AF advised that teachers were developing expertise in remote learning and there could be opportunities in the future with regard to blended learning, which would offer flexibility for KS4 and KS5 students.

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 4 March 2021.

5. CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Action Points

1.	AF talk to Jo Rich regarding any PE and wellbeing activities that could be set for KS4 students.
2.	AF to provide a Covid-19 update at the next meeting.
3.	AF to provide an update at the next meeting with regard to parent survey results.