

Parents Consultation Group

Date:	Thursday 11 th June 2020 7pm		
Staff Attendees:	Ms Z Jaffer – Headteacher Mr M Bynoe – Deputy Headteacher Ms J Byrne – Head of Lower School Ms R Lashley – Head of Upper School Mr C Brown – Head of Student Engagement Ms L Perkola – Head of Services	No. of Parents per Year Group	Year 7 - 6 Year 8 - 3 Year 9 - 2 Year 10 - 13 Year 11 - 3 Year 12 - 5 Year 13 – 0

1. Risk Assessment Update

Ms L Perkola

We have amended some of the rooms being used for lessons to rooms with better ventilations. Toilets for both staff and students have been identified and a cleaning schedule for these toilets has been given to the Cleaners.

We have providing training for all Wider Leadership staff members and staff members returning to school site. Risk assessment has been signed off by our Governors on Saturday 6th June and has now been sent to the Local Authority to be reviewed. They will decide if we have met, partially met or not met the threshold. If not met, we will be given guidance on what needs to be amended.

From our last meeting, parents were keen on having the Risk Assessment uploaded to the school website. The Risk Assessment is not ‘user friendly’ so uploading a Risk Assessment summary for parents on the school website this week which details all information included in the risk assessment.

Questions

How long will the Risk Assessment take to be reviewed by the Local Authority, and how easy is it to adjust the Risk Assessment if it comes back needing amendments?

We are aware that other schools have received their confirmation within 3 – 4 days. As we have already submitted it and reopening is not until Monday 22nd June, we should have it back and confirmed in time to make any amendments if needed. The Risk Assessment is easy to adapt but need to manage expectations and ensure we aren’t making too many changes in our plans once confirmed. We regularly meet and review any Government guidance that is issued to ensure that we are abiding by regulations set. We have to do what is right for our school environment, staff and students.

2. Home Learning Update

Mr M Bynoe

Concerns were raised last week regarding students needing more face to face time with teachers. Students, especially as home learning has evolved as weeks have gone on. With Heads of Departments, we are currently discussing and planning a timetable for face to face lessons for students. Some of these lessons would be recorded for students to view and work from in their own time, later getting feedback and asking questions with their teacher. Staff are very keen to have lessons face to face as well and want to make these as engaging as possible by including quizzes and assignments within the lessons using such programmes like PowerPoint. We are aiming to have this timetable available by the end of next week and will mirror current Home Learning schedule. Parents need to be aware that the need for teaching staff to be in school to deliver lessons may impact who will be teaching their child’s online lesson, it may not be their current teachers as they may be needed for the Year 10, Year 12 and Student Hub provision.

Questions

Some schools are running an all-day online lesson timetable, have you discussed how they are doing this with them?

All schools have a different staff profile. Due to the speed in which school closures happened, there was not enough time to staff were trained in delivering lessons online, however staff have responded well and embraced the use of

Teams. Initially when school closures happened, we were guided by parent feedback from one of our surveys saying that an online lesson timetable like the current school timetable would be too much for students to cope with. However, as we have now got used to this way of working, we need to review our home learning package. Running a full day will be difficult to do, based on our staff profile and from Monday 22nd June, staff will be needed on site for the reopening phase for Year 10 and 12, and anticipated high number of students in the Student Hub.

How many children are not engaging with lessons, due to lack of devices at home or simply disengaged from school?

Pastoral team have been contacting students who have not engaged online. For some students who have not due to lack of devices at home, we have issued with laptops from a limited supply already in school. Government scheme has also allowed laptop funding; however, they are very limited and eligibility is very low. Some families with limited devices in comparison to the amount of people in the household needing devices. We are baring this in mind when it comes to online lessons to ensure that those students who cannot log on at the set time, still have access to the lesson. Some students also needed some contact from the Pastoral Team to help them reengage back into work and help with setting up a home routine which we have helped with.

Is it possible for parents to see timetable once complete?

Yes, we will of course communicate the timetable to the parents to ensure they are also kept up to date. Our current timetable is on the school website as well. We will also ensure the Online Lesson timetable will be specified against Home learning timetable.

Are there any funds for devices to be purchased for students?

Our PTA has been very generous and donated just under £10,000 for us to purchase devices, supplementing the funding from the Government. We are intending for every student in Year 10 and 12 eligible for Free School Meals to be given a device. We are also looking at how to roll out the iPad scheme for the Sixth Form, ensuring we get the correct devices needed. There is a delay in purchasing any devices at the present due to the sheer amount of orders everyone is making, including Government provided devices which will not be with us until the end of June.

Some students do not have access to internet at home. How will you support this?

We have been trying to purchase dongles to issue to students, however they are in such demand nationally that we are finding this process hard. We have received some funding from the Local Authority to supplement the purchase.

I am concerned that my child is falling behind, and we are concerned that they may not be able to complete their exams to the best of their ability. Does the school have a view of when/if the schedule will change for students taking exams next year?

We feel there may be no change to the exam process next year, given the urgency of the Government wanting to bring back schools to some normality; however due to the disruption there could be a blended approach using this year's process, alongside the traditional exam process. We do not have any information on when this will be confirmed by the Government. Ofqual have announced that they are starting to look at how they will change next year's exams in recognition of school closures and students not being able to access the full syllabus and teaching unions have communicated with the Government in favour of using a blended approach to exams next year.

3. Wellbeing and Student Engagement

What is planned for Year 11 students as they are becoming unmotivated and unengaged?

We are planning to write to Year 11 students to let them know we are discussing plans for how Results Day will look like. We are keen to ensure that Results Day is similar to what it would have been as this is a significant milestone in their lives. However, we do need to take social distancing regulations into account when planning the day to ensure that we are always being safe, yet celebratory for work students have put in. Students who have been given

provisional offers for our Sixth Form have been given access to a software programme called Unifrog which include lessons and materials to help support them for their transition into Year 12. Mr Enebeli has also set up a Year 11 SharePoint site where students can access a range of information including career choices, news on current affairs and contacts for support on mental health concerns. This week we have also set up Teams Form meetings which will continue until they leave.

My child is disengaging and missing school life, I am also finding it hard to motivate myself, but need to support him. What can the school do to support these children?

We are finding there is a trend with the Year 9 and 10 students especially. Have spoken to some students who have said that as the school cant put in place any sanctions such as detentions, they are not seeing the consequence of not engaging in work. Given this, we have organised weekly recorded assemblies for Year 9 and 10 students where they will also be given the messages from school directly to give a sense of ownership which will be sent to student's email addresses and to parents. If successful, we will also ask students to participate in the assemblies as well. ask students to participate. These recorded assemblies will also start to be rolled out to Year 7 and 8 students to ensure they are also given clear and concise messages, addressing how students are and the difficulties of Home Learning they have had.

Many parents, including myself, are concerned about their child's lack of physical activity during lockdown. Could the school organise PE lessons outside?

A large number of our PE teachers are currently staffing the Student Hub, so many not be able to deliver outside lessons. We will look to include messages on the importance of regular physical activity within our assemblies and will be looking at what else we can organise and will communicate to parents once confirmed.

I am finding it difficult to make sure my child is awake early to start learning. Can anything be done to make this an obligation, such as sending daily text messages?

We have been looking at ways to communicate with students when they have not logged on for a certain amount of time and increasing their pastoral engagement within the week. However need to be mindful that staff will be returning to school site and online learning is being increased. As we are also aware, some students are sharing devices and may not be able to log online by a certain time or daily.

4. Reopening Plans

In your letters regarding Year 10 and 12 reopening plans, students are in for one session. Can you please clarify what one session is?

Year 10 students will come into school, have a welcome and Health & Safety brief. They will then have 1 hour of Maths and 1 hour of English, supplementing the Home Learning work set already. We have grouped students based on their submissions of English & Maths work over this period on Show My Homework. Teachers will also be creating resource packs for students to go home with, focusing on areas they are needing support with. students will be invited in at least once, or more than once for students needing extra support.

Year 12 students will be invited into the school for 1 session which will be with a staff member and 1 other student, largely focusing on UCAS applications.

Response from our staff profile showed we have many staff unable to return to school at present due to a range of factors such as vulnerable health conditions, childcare issues and a high use of public transport needed to travel to school. Our Student Hub provision is our main focus as this provides a high level of support to our most vulnerable students. Students accessing the hub started at around 5, and currently are planning for over 40 students a day.

I have concerns about how September will look for the students. How will the school be able to deliver home learning if needed and be on site to teach students who have returned to school?

In the absence of guidance from the Government about how September will look for schools, we have started to have discussions around models and what we can put in place, such as year groups in on alternative weeks. We are looking at purchasing as much online resources and equipment as possible such as textbooks to ensure students are not disadvantaged by not being able to come by this current or any future period of school closures. Staff are keen to have a blended model of both Home Learning and onsite teaching, guidance permitting, so we are using this time to ensure staff are skilled and trained in the best way to deliver teaching remotely.

Can students have video lessons, using programmes such as PowerPoint to explain work that has been set, especially in practical lessons?

In practical lessons, we are going to be using PowerPoint as we can embed videos and sound into the slideshow. This will also be useful for students who need to access work later than scheduled time. Some more practical lessons, such as Textiles and Design & Technology may be harder to teach remotely, however we are discussing and sharing best practise on how to deliver these lessons. We have had many students engage with our SNS Home Projects with Art & Photography which have been great to see.

My daughter is in Year 10 and I am concerned about her missing the teaching in practical lessons as I cannot deliver these at home, how will the school take this into account?

Art is very keen to do recommence teaching, either via filming a tutorial being done first, then students complete and submit their work. On Tuesday 16th we will have feedback from all departments, including practical subjects, on how we are going to deliver online lessons for us to plan timetables. All of our Heads of Departments in practical subjects are looking at how best to bridge the gap until students can return to school.

Will you be running a provision for students over the summer?

We have had an amazing response from local volunteers right at the start of school closures and are now in early discussions with our Governors on how best to deliver this. The Government has also just announced that they will be realising funds to support Summer Schools. We will also be looking into a study space provision over the summer, however will need to be mindful of how we organise this given social distancing regulations.

Some schools are bringing back Year 7 and 8 students in January 2021. Is SNS doing the same?

We have no plans to defer any students return to January 2021 and would like students to come back as soon as possible in the safest capacity. We will take the latest Government guidance released at the time into account when planning a larger opening of the school.

5. Year 6 Transition

Ms J Byrne

Traditionally we would have a Taster Day for students to come into school however as this is not possible this year, the Pastoral Support Team have been working with myself and Ms O'Malley, Deputy Head of Lower School, in devising a weekly timetable of events instead. All students will be having a virtual face to face meeting with a member of the Pastoral, or Lower School team, these meetings have already started with our Inclusion Team for students with Education Health Care Plans. We are also in contact with their current Primary Schools to ensure that we are collecting as much information on the child to ensure we have background knowledge and the right support in place for them when they begin. A virtual tour has been filmed and lead by our Year 7 students who are in the Student Hub, focusing on differences from Primary School to Secondary School, which will be uploaded onto our school website for our transition week commencing 29th June. On the website, we are also planning for some Year 7 introduction work for core subjects, including a Maths course to ensure they are Secondary ready. We have organised each student to be given a 'goody bag' for them including some work to do over the summer, including

work set based on the book - You're Awesome which will also be included. We are currently working with external agencies to ensure our vulnerable year 6 students have the best and ongoing support they are currently receiving once they have started with us in September.

6. Other Questions

I am finding it hard to keep up with information sent in letters emailed as they are attachments, is there an easier way to communicate information with us?

We are mindful of sending out too much information and letters are uploaded onto the school website to ensure easy access if needed.

Do you have any funding coming in to employ extra staff members?

We were given £75,000 from the Government; however this has quickly been used to procure equipment such as individual pencil cases for students, and facilities such as mobile handwashing facilities to be placed around the building. We are keeping up to date with Government funding schemes and putting bids in place to ensure we are getting as much financial support from the Government as possible.

7. AOBs

We have devised a questionnaire with our Parent Consultation Group to be sent out next week to help us with a more detailed view on how the school closures have been, identifying key areas we will need to investigate.

We have all been effected by global events, not only Covid-19 pandemic, but also the events happening in America and now globally. We are ensuring that we seize this opportunity to look within our school in how best we can embed the Black Lives Matter movement into student's school life. We will be holding a forum next week Wednesday 17th June especially for our BAME community to ensure their voices, concerns and views are being heard in the forefront of how we do this.

We will also be dedicating our next Parent Consultation Group for our TKC families to ensure they are also an integral part of parent views we are hearing.

We will be aiming to hold another Parent Consultation Group before the end of the school term, focusing on what the next academic year will be like.