

**Parent Voice Minutes**  
**29<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**Introduction and welcome by Mrs Longmore, Vice Principal**

Mrs Longmore started the meeting by saying how well the Year 7 students have settled in.

Minutes from the meeting in July reviewed.

**Sarah Pritchard – introduced herself and her roll in Student Voice**

Student Voice has been launched in VMG's, there has been a lot of interest from students. This is an excellent way of making friends and integrating into academy life. Applications have been received for Ambassador and Vice president, the deadline for applications is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

New for this year will be a transition committee which will work with Y6's and help with their move into secondary school.

**Parent of a Year 7 student** – her child had settled in really well, Summer School has helped and was enjoyed very much.

**Parent commented that her child only seems to have time for a sandwich at lunch**

Response - the longest queue is actually for the sandwich bar. Queues had been timed to see how long students were waiting the result was 11 minutes, leaving plenty of time to eat. There was further information given about the various food hatches, three different hatches – sandwiches and wraps, jacket potato and pasta with various fillings, main meal of the day with a vegetarian option.

**Agenda items**

**Scholastic Book Fair**

This will take place from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November (including Parents Evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> November). The fair has a wide variety of books for all reading ages and prices start at £2.99. There will be a selection of stationery and posters for sale from 50p to £2.99. Letters and leaflets will be for both parents and students and will go out after October half term. Any proceeds taken means the academy gets money back towards free books for the library. If any parents wish to make an appointment to view the fair for themselves either during or after academy hours, please contact Mrs Hedgecock in the library.

**MacMillan Coffee Morning**

This will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, parents, carers and grandparents are invited to attend an assembly. Arrival is from 10.10am to 10.20am so that you can be seated before the students. The coffee morning will follow and will run from 10.45am – 11.45am.

## **Post-16**

Post-16 – number of students on roll this year is best ever with 300. There has been a significant increase in students from outside of the Worksop area. Trips that will run this year include, Rome for Philosophy and Ethics students, New York for Business Studies students and London for Government and Politics. All trips have to have an educational purpose.

Further to the July minutes Jeanette Shea commented about P16 study time, since introducing the policy of '5 hours study at the centre rather than at home', there has been a significant increase in results.

## **Results**

The measure of 5+ A\*-Cs including English and maths (86% for Portland in 2016) is changing. Nationally, it is being replaced by three new measures; firstly the percentage of pupils who get a good pass in English and mathematics (88% for Portland in 2016), secondly, the average Attainment 8 score which is a numerical grade 9 - 1 of a student's best eight subjects, but including English, maths, three of the following French / Spanish / Computer Science / geography / history / sciences and three other subjects) will be reported (this was 5.8 in 2016 for Portland). The school is also given a Progress 8 score, in 2016 this was +1.05 for Portland, which means that on average every student achieved one grade better in every subject than expected.

**Parent – came along to the meeting to see what Parent Voice is all about. Children have come from a non-feeder school and have settled in well.**

**Parent – her son has settled in really well and is happy, has also come from non-feeder school.**

**Parent raised a concern about communication between teacher and student. Particularly in VMG, messages are not given out.**

Response - Mrs Longmore said that that this would be passed on to staff. Mr Joyce mentioned the new VMG Portal which messages for students would be put on and shown to students daily in VMG.

**Parent – came along to get used to being around the academy**

**Parent – Child has settled in well and is enjoying school but raised a concern that feedback from completed homework was not being given.**

Response - homework should be acknowledged – concerns would be taken back to teaching staff.

**Parent – why did Year 7 parents at Valley receive a letter about which language their child could opt for when Portland parents didn't?**

Response - as far as we were aware that was something that had happened in previous years. Mr Joyce followed this with the reasoning behind not giving a choice – choosing a language determines which half of the year students go in, this should be determined by English, Maths and Science. He went on to add that where there is a real need to allow a choice, this would be done e.g. a child that had spent early years in Spain.

**Parent – do the children get the chance to explain what’s happened before a consequence is given.**

Response – Yes absolutely, if there has been a serious incident, there is always a full investigation, statements will be taken from students. Consequences that are issued in lessons are dealt with quickly to avoid lost learning however, a student can always speak to the member of staff during break or lunch if they wish to.

**Parent – concern expressed that not much homework has been given, and their child needs lots of practice especially in maths.**

Response - explanation given about the MyMaths website where all maths homework is set. There should be a weekly task set, teacher will mark and review with child.

**Parent – concern raised that they didn’t know anything about MyMaths and login details.**

Response – will look into whether all login details have been given to students.

**Parent – child is Polish and has settled in well and all is good.**

**Parent – are there plenty of healthy options at break?**

Response –there is fruit available at break, fruit pots available at lunch. It was also mentioned that there are plenty of healthy choices. Menu will be displayed on the website. It was made clear that students make their own decision when choosing what to eat.

**Parent – No feedback received at all about homework, child has only had two pieces of homework and didn’t know about the MyMaths website.**

Response – Marking and Assessment takes place within 5 hours of learning or every two weeks, this concern will be addressed.

**Parent – how does Parents Evening work, can parents see all teachers and the Learning Manager.**

Response – parents evening is open to all, but parents do not have to come if they or the academy has no concerns. When they receive the Praising Stars report any concerns will be highlighted by a tick in the ‘Concern’ column next to the relevant subject. Parents were informed that they would be able to contact the academy reception to make their appointments.

**Parent – It would be useful to know what trips the academy is going to run well in advance.**

Response – this could be possible – a calendar could be put together and published on the website.

**Parent – there seems to be a lot of students receiving multiple detentions, does this really work?**

Response – it takes a while for Year 7 students to settle in and learn the rules – these will reduce. The system we used is there to protect the learning of the students. Most students never see the consequence room.

**Parent – wanted to praise the academy for how well the options process was organised.**

**Parent – Derbyshire have issued guidelines on term time holidays. Nothing has been issued from Nottinghamshire.**

Response – No exceptions will be made for holidays taken in term time. Everyday missed impacts on a student's learning.

**Parent – when will we receive the Praising Stars report?**

Response – before every half term.

**Parent – will students be moved up or down in their teaching sets and when will this happen?**

Response – this forms part of the Praising Stars cycle, assessments are made by the class teacher.

**Parent – the report that can be obtained on a students squid account has proved to be very useful as parents can see what a child has been eating.**

Mrs Longmore thanked everyone for attending, she also confirmed that all future meetings will be separate.