



HASLINGDEN HIGH SCHOOL

PTFA Meeting 11th February, 2019

MINUTES

Apologies: Mark Jackson

Kate Sieg-Hogg also apologised for having to cancel the meeting last week at such short notice and thanked everybody for their understanding.

Kate thanked Susan Bains, school librarian, for allowing us to hold our meeting in the school library. Susan described how well the school library is being used and that we now have over 4,000 good quality items in stock – but is hoping to increase this further.

1. Homework allocation / Homework booklets

Kate asked for feedback on both KS3 and KS4 homework:

Key Stage 4

- A parent of a student in year 9 felt that their child was getting a little less than what they thought was expected, but not causing a major concern.
- Parents of year 11 students liked the guided revision activities for homework and none of the parents felt that there was a “doubling up” of homework along with revision tasks.
- Parents of year 11 students liked the flexibility with some of the revision / homework tasks as it gave students the opportunity to complete as much (or as little) as wanted.
- A lot of past papers have been issued for year 11 revision which parents and students like and felt were relevant.
- After a lengthy discussion, most parents were in agreement that 2-2.5 hours of homework / revision per night was enough, however, still wanted students to have the opportunity to have “down-time” and not think about school work / exams. It was agreed by all that this was important for the well-being of the students.
- E-mail feedback was presented which raised the issue of a year 10 student struggling to revise for Block B assessments on top of the homework which is being set. The parent felt that this was a recurring issue as her son had the same problem when in year 11 last year.
 - Kate explained that all curriculum leaders will soon be looking into homework allocation and these issues will be forwarded to Mr Goodman.

Additional discussion around mock exams brought up the following issues:

- Some parents felt that the mock exams (Block B) should be as true to the summer exams as possible and that only sitting half a paper would not give students a clear indication of what is expected of them. Timings of the mock exams would not always allow all papers of all subjects to be taken for their full duration. Discussions followed regarding student well-being and whether “scaring” the students would be effective.
 - Kate will check with Mr Goodman the requirements of the mocks.
- Much praise for the evening with Tim Milner and parents who attended said that they have taken his advice and adopted some of his strategies regarding planning and flexibility.

Key Stage 3

- The overwhelming consensus was very positive for KS3 homework booklets. Parents really like them and the guided tasks. It was felt that they help with self-planning, especially when specific timings are given.
- Parents felt that they provided a good opportunity to introduce a variety of skills, i.e. essay writing, rather than just the particular topic.
- Booklets were also viewed to be a success when differentiated, although more extension would be useful for the very high ability.
- Some parents did question why homework booklets didn’t go home after they had been marked.
- There was also some feeling that students perhaps weren’t getting enough homework booklets.
- Parents also liked PRPs, however, there still seems to be a very small issue with ensuring links are appropriate / relevant.
- Some students may need reassuring that the tasks can be completed on different days, especially if they have particular days when they are busy with other commitments
- The 2 days to “mop up” was also particularly appreciated, again for students who may be busy on certain days, or who have been ill etc.

2. Update on reports

Unfortunately, due to the rescheduling of the meeting Kate didn’t have the updates on reports, however, welcomed discussions around this issue:

- Parents would generally like comments as the data alone can be quite confusing and a little impersonal. There was a feeling that reports don’t give you the essence of the child in the same way comments / parents’ evenings do. Some parents indicated that they mainly look at the effort grade.

- There was a feeling that the timings of parents' evenings didn't always allow for opportunities to discuss issues arising from reports and it was wondered if parents' evenings could occur earlier on in the year.
- Parents like phone calls home from teachers, especially when these are for positive reasons!
- School Governor, Gillian Worthington, did reassure parents that if they have any concerns over their child's progress that they should e-mail individual teachers to raise their concerns. Some parents, however, felt that they would still prefer more face-to-face opportunities and the possibility of "drop-in" sessions was discussed.
 - Kate will bring this up with Curriculum Leaders / SLT.

3. Feedback on Autumn term fundraising

Claire went through the accounts for the autumn term. A total net income of £1885.43 was raised through the 300 Club, Easy fundraising, Bingo and Fizz night, Drama and Music show, Christmas Raffle.

Bids have been granted to:

- Library - £1000
- Remembrance Garden - £350
- Trampoline Kits - £120.00

Thanks to everybody for their hard work in raising the money to allow us to support the school activities.

Many thanks to people who have donated raffle prizes, and can we keep them coming in?!

Thanks to Claire Smith for her meticulous book-keeping.

4. Family Quiz Night – 29th March, 2019

The following planning took place:

- £2.50 per person – to be 'paid on the door' (Children under 11 are free)
- Different rounds will be:
 - Settling-in round, i.e. taste test
 - 2 picture rounds – Kate to complete
 - 1 music round – Kate to see Mr Goodman who has kindly helped with this round previously
 - 1 children's round
 - 4 general knowledge rounds – subject specific

- Location – school theatre – Kate to ensure it is booked, Claire to organise an alcohol licence.
- Claire to promote via Facebook - please can everybody share this? Kate to encourage more teacher participation.
- Prize – Bottle of prosecco and box of chocolates
- Volunteers for bar / raffle needed:
 - Claire
 - Vicki
 - Kate
 - Jenny
 - Tina
 - Claudia

5. AOB

- **Clothes recycle scheme**
 - Claire has previously raised the possibility of having a clothes recycling bin on school site as a way to raise further funds. Discussions around this highlighted that some schools have raised a significant amount of money this way, however, other schools had issues of littering and clothes being left to pile up as the agency didn't stick to their collection agreement.
 - Kate to speak to Deborah Dawes about this.
- **Policies**
 - Through completing the Charity Commission audit it has been brought to our attention that we should have a variety of policies in place.
 - A special policies and procedures meeting has been scheduled from 25th March, 6.00pm in the school library purely dedicated to writing and reviewing policies. All are welcome.
- **Buses in bad weather**
 - Sarah Stansfield has contacted the PTFA via e-mail / Facebook messenger regarding the issue of buses suggesting that buses are asked to let schools know when their services are disrupted by bad weather as her daughter had been left stranded the previous Tuesday.
 - Kate explained that Deborah Dawes does have good contacts with the bus services and that as soon as she receives any information it is passed on to parents as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, on the Tuesday in question, nobody at the bus company (Rossobus) was answering the telephone. The advice that went out to parents was to keep checking their website for any updates.
 - Parents added to this that Rosso Twitter feed is excellent for giving live, regular updates and that that they can sign-up for alerts.

- Parents acknowledged and appreciated that school cannot hold full responsibility for how all students get home in inclement weather and that it would be useful to always have a back-up plan.
- **Security in PE Changing rooms**
 - Jacqui Gamble contacted the PTFA via e-mail / Facebook messenger regarding some thefts in the school changing rooms and suggested the use of a valuables box.
 - Kate will pass this information on to Mr Haworth.
- **Polystyrene Cups**
 - Mei Tang from a local Chinese Takeaway has very kindly donated 6000 polystyrene cups. Claire will collect these and we will think about where to store them!
- **Bids**
 - Susan Baines, school librarian, explained that school Governor, Mr Clark has very kindly donated 109 graphic novels to the library, which have a face value of £19.99. These are such fabulous books and in perfect condition that Susan wants an appropriate method to display and protect the books. A bid for approximately £100 has been requested to purchase a cabinet which Andy Greenwood, DT Technician, will then add a polycarbonate front to it.
 - The PTFA granted the wish and allowed for flexibility in amount needed

DONM:

Policy Review Meeting: 25th March, 2019. School Library

Next regular meeting: Monday 13th May, 2019. School Library.