



Minutes from Parents' Forum 7 November 2016

Mrs Segrove explained that the focus for this forum was to identify if there was anything else that Oakbank could do to engage parents. There were 10 families represented at the forum. Mrs Segrove discussed the fact that with the use of ClassCharts and parents being able to email teachers when they had a query, she felt that parents were well informed. She also recognised that as children start secondary school, for some families they are able to consider one parent going back to work. She also recognised that life is busy with after school clubs and activities. These factors limit the time parents have to give to the school for things such as a PTA etc.

Parents felt that the parent body was engaged but that perhaps the school could run two open sessions inviting local businesses, the community and parents to come and chat to staff about ways in which they could support the school. Mrs Segrove agreed to present this to the leadership team and organise something.

There was discussion around the timing of the Year 10 mocks. There was concern that students would be anxious over the Christmas period with the mocks being directly after Christmas. Mrs Segrove acknowledged this and explained that students have been given plenty of notice so that they could revise now which is what will happen in their real GCSEs. Mrs Segrove did agree to take the timing of mocks to be discussed at the leadership team meeting.

A parent asked about the opening of a Sixth Form at Oakbank. Mrs Segrove explained that whilst the school was not full it was not financially viable but that this is still one of our long term goals. However, more importantly is preparing our students for the next stage transition. A Year 11 parent explained that the school was doing this well and supporting the Year 11s.

There was a question about whether or not we had any comments from parents about homework. Mrs Segrove explained that she hadn't but she felt that ClassCharts was really helping with homework. Another parent said that she believed that every time a piece of homework was set it should be marked and Mrs Segrove explained that it depended on the nature of the homework and the purpose of it.

A discussion took place about the value and impact of a parents' forum with so few attendees, the parents there felt quite strongly that they enjoyed and benefitted from the forum and the open discussions that took place. Mrs Segrove agreed that the Parents' Forums would continue.

Meeting closed at 7 pm.