



Carmel Parent Forum

11th December 2017

Members

Mike Shorten | Lynn Hunter | Melanie Kane | Jennifer Moorhouse | Rachael Hardcastle | Colin Robson | Cliff Burgess | Elizabeth Flanagan | William Walker | Rachel Tempest | Caroline Walker

Apologies for absence

- Rachel Tempest
- Caroline Walker

Welcome

Review of last meeting's outcomes

- We would welcome more parents to this event so a further advertising push will go out to try and get 2-3 representatives from each year.
- The meeting began with a look at trips in light of the recent terror activities, parents felt trips should still go ahead and that has been very successful.
- Trips are changing as the school notices that less children are looking to do exchanges, there was some discussion as to why this is; releasing students for two weeks, safe guarding, and cost.
- Parents can use the mini bus for a charity or Organisation i.e. scouts, sports teams as the school has purchased additional insurance. All must apply and go through the school's application system. It was discussed that this may encourage parents to support the school with Duke of Edinburgh award and other trips.

Catering within school

- Catering is all done in-house and as part of the school action plan and what came out of the survey students wanted more consultation about the food on offer. There is a move to make all prices the same within the trust. Price changes will be coming soon.
 - School council lead a feedback session on the atrium discussing with the rest of the school what the kitchen does and produced advert leaflets detailing the work that does in to making the food.
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- Pricing was discussed and how we can make this more transparent for parents and encourage more engagement with home. This could be done through our app or on the website. Colin to discuss with our IT department.

Internet safety campaign- NSPCC workshop

- In light of the recent survey done within school and the students' council, students felt they were not 'safe' online due to the fact that they knew more than the adults in their lives. It was discussed that the NSPCC runs a free workshop as long as we can guarantee 30 adults in attendance.
- General positive feedback that this would be useful for parents and that timing of the event would be crucial.
- Dedicated parent session looking at parental controls and what students can access would be beneficial.
- Already a lot of work done with students on the repercussions of using social media within PSHEE and the curriculum.

Careers within school

- Carmel has sourced out two specialist careers advisors who work with students in Year 10+.
- It was discussed that some students felt they hadn't got the 'full' options that are available for careers and this was something the school were targeting.
- We have several businesses with the community and projects running such as Big Project with Jacobs, and STEM ambassadors that work with small groups of children. All work towards building soft skills and preparing for working life.
- After this year it was discussed could it be scaled up to ensure all have these opportunities.
- Mention of CSR programs that a lot of larger companies are buying in to where employers must be seen to be mentoring - could Carmel use this?

Year 7 Virtue Ethics

- Character Ethics - how do we build character at Carmel? We looked at student profiles, those that are involved and those who are not involved but who get a lot of support and the 'silent majority'.
- A big push about making students aware of what they do inside and outside of school and how that contributes to character building.
- All students in Year 7-9 receive a folder that helps them create an action plan then able to review it and award bronze, silver, gold.
- A discussion how many parents are involved in organisations, could they help with some advertisement to encourage students to join different clubs.

EPRA - how can the events be improved?

- A push for including webinar access so that parents who can't make events can also join and interact. To be discussed with IT.

AOB

- Parent app is a big success, a last push for any parents still not accessing it or need IT support.
- Consultation with buses as less children are using the buses due to less subsidiary from the Local Authority.
- Consultation is still early days.

Visit to the climbing wall

Adjournment
