

**MINUTES OF THE PARENTS FORUM MEETING ON
THURSDAY 4TH JUNE ON ZOOM**

Staff Attendance: Heidi Gale – Headteacher
Jo Cooper – Deputy Headteacher
Faye Parker Dennis – Head of 6th Form
Jenny Read – Assistant Headteacher – KS3
Cathy Peacock – Chair of Governors
Alison Pascual – Link Governor
Paul Heery – Chief Executive Officer

Heidi Gale welcomed all to the meeting and explained that the first half of the meeting would focus on Years 7, 8 and 9 and the second half of the meeting on Years 10 and 12.

Home learning:

In response to the question, “Would paper booklets continue to be sent out for Year 7 & 8?” Jenny Read responded saying that booklets had been posted out and that these booklets would supplement what was already on line. She explained that there were 6 weeks’ worth of resources to be used in conjunction with work on Share Point. Students can work through the booklet even if they have no access to the internet. The only people who have not received the booklets are those people who indicated through the Survey that they would use Share Point to access all the work and did not require the workbooks. Obviously, should you have changed your mind and you do now require the work books, please let her know and she would send them out.

Assessing Progress:

Jenny told parents that Teachers have been asked to provide 2 pieces of assessed work during the next 6 weeks. However, Jenny Read reinforced that they do not have to submit the work for assessment if this was going to cause any stress for students.

Year 10 and 12 were being sent work weekly by specific subject teachers via Teams. Some of this work would need to be returned by students to be assessed and marked and then returned to students. They are being assessed as they would be if they were in school.

Mock Exams:

Heidi Gale informed parents that the decision had been made NOT to run mock exams. They did not think this would be fair for students. The school wanted to wait to see how students were when they returned and look at whether some form of assessment or mock exam would take place at the end of term.

Reports:

All students had Reports before the school closed. Parents are able to access their child’s report on Go4Schools.

Jenny Read was aware that Year 7s had missed out as they had missed having Parents Evening. All other years have had full written reports with the exception of Years 7 and 10. It was being

proposed that when school returns in September that Year 8 (the present Year 7) would be the first to have a Parents Evening and/or Reports. She explained that it was that no value in producing Year 7 Reports at this point when students have not seen their Teachers for 3 months.

Grades:

Jenny Read explained that students do not get graded, they are assessed throughout the year. Clearly the assessments done this year would be out of date by the time students get back in September so they will be placed in groups based on those assessments. The work being done in lockdown will not be used to assess students.

In response to “What will the school look like in September” she said that she honestly did not know what the school would look like. She told parents that the school would be run the best way they could, given the governments’ guidelines.

Jenny Read responded to the question “Will Year 9 get a paper workbook” was “No they wouldn’t get a paper work book” and this was because unlike Years 7 and 8 who were having work set as whole year groups, this couldn’t be done for Year 9 because they were getting their work set individually by class teachers, depending on the groups they were in and subject they had chosen. This was the same for Year 10. She told parents that if anyone was struggling with internet access they should let her know and she would do her best to get this resolved.

Heidi Gale said Year 9 would be receiving Maths, English and Science and work set for the Options they have chosen to do.

Jenny Read said that students were being expected to submit 2 pieces of work for each subject for the half term but if students wished to upload more work to Share Point then they could do so or they could email their teachers direct with specific pieces of work with questions on how they should be completed. With regard to what levels were expected for year 7, the range was too enormous to rely on individual feedback from teachers.

Heidi Gale whilst waiting for further parents to join the group spoke about what plans the school had been making for some Year 10s and 12s to return. Following the initial announcement from the Government that primaries would be returning from the 1st June they realised that they would not be in a position to open on the 1st June but would be aiming for an 8th June start. Heidi Gale explained that they had started the really comprehensive risk assessment process and thought that they had a plan that they were going to use loosely based on Nottinghamshire County Council’s risk assessment but with other factors also tied into it. She said they had started to work with the Trust and staff looking at how they were going to open the school safely. The document will be made available to parents. Initially the plan was to have a rota for some year 10 students to be in school in the morning and year 12 students to be in school in the afternoon. There would be thorough cleaning at lunchtimes between groups and there would not be anyone staying in school over lunchtimes to negate the need to feed them so that hygiene could be maintained.

On Sunday Boris Johnson announced that only 25% of Years 10 and 12 could go back to school and this meant that the plan to start back had to be reviewed. The Risk Assessment had been modified and fortunately our smallest groups are Years 10 and 12 so factoring in 25%, we are only looking at 30 students that will be in school every day. Each day will be a different set of students. Currently it is expected that every student in Years 10 and 12 will have a day each week of provision in school.

That will mean that students will be in over lunch because it cannot be a split rota. We are suggesting Maths, English and Science to be taught in the mornings and an Option in the afternoons. A survey has gone out to parents, co-ordinated by Jo Cooper, and 80% of parents of Years 10 and 12 have said that they wish their child to be back at school. Once final numbers are received, we can work out what student's timetable will look like.

Interesting question "Who will my child be with in their school day?" That will be determined by the Options they have but we will be trying to keep child in similar groups. We are not operating a bubble system like they are in primary schools. The understanding is that our students have some concept of social distancing and secondary schools tend to be bigger so we will be enforcing social distancing. The school want to make sure that there are not too many people on site in any one day which includes staff as well as children. So 30 children with 6-8 members of staff.

On Monday, Year 10 Group 1 divided into two groups 1A and 1B and the idea is that the 2 groups should not be mixing at all. There is a lot of work being done around signage and also around who will be using which classrooms, where they line up, which toilets will be in operation, how they wash their hands etc. Next Friday (12th June) Mrs Gale and another member of the SLT will be walking through what it will look like from a student's point of view. It is planned that Year 12 will be in Thursdays and Fridays and perhaps a small group on other afternoons. This will all be communicated to parents and we hope to have something concrete by next week.

We are also surveying staff as not all staff are able to come into school, for different reasons. We will still be running our supervision for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. This has to be run completely independently.

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Heidi Gale fielded questions:

Question: Will students attend the same day each week?

Answer: Yes, but if their friend attends on another day, they will not be able to mix with that friend at all. A new Home School Agreement will be issued so that everyone is clear on what their responsibilities are.

Question: Will uniform be required?

Answer: No, uniform will not be required. Children may have grown out of their uniforms and it is harder to keep clean as it will need to be laundered every day. We will remind students on what is appropriate attire to be worn in school.

Question: Do students have to wear face masks?

Answer: There is no definitive answer to this question. If they wish to wear a mask, and it makes children feel more comfortable, then they should do so but there are no strict guidelines for them to do so. Handwashing and hand sanitising will be enforced, along with social distancing.

Question: My child travels by bus to school but at present the service is not running.

Answer: There is a lot in the Risk Assessment around public transport. Children will be starting later and finishing earlier but there is some difficulty around public transport. Ideally we would prefer children to either be brought by parents or they walk or cycle and this would be our preference in order to reduce their risk.

Paul Heery: As part of the Risk Assessment, the Trust have been asked to consider the risks of transmission from students using public transport to get to school. We have been asked that students who travel by public transport do so outside of the rush hour, hence the later start and earlier finish times. We need to encourage students not to use public transport. This should not be too much of an issue as Year 10 students are only expected to be in school once a week. We will put the Risk Assessment on the website and keep communication as detailed as we can. We are very grateful to parents for their understanding.

Question: What does the future hold for assessment and grades?

Answer: We could not expect our students to sit GCSE's next summer and so things have to be a bit different next year. It may be that it will be rationalised, it may be that we need to factor in more time for students. We will have to be there for our young people but it will be a lot different for them.

Question: If my child finds it too hard to return now, can they return in September?

Answer: YES. We are here to help and the pastoral team will be in school on a rota. Heidi Mansfield and Kate Wood would be in school too. We need to encourage children to be at school if they can be.

Jo Cooper said that the school are working hard to respond to things as they come up. Some are very particular and personal to individuals and we are trying to make sure their needs are met. We are more than happy to continue. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any issues. It is okay to request a phone call or an email to discuss your individual anxieties and queries.

Question: Is online tuition an option?

This issue had previously been raised and it was still thought that the safeguarding implications that this created meant that this was not an option. Some remote pre-recorded sessions have been done and some students have found them to be really useful but the school feels that they keep children safer by not doing them. She said they are looking at other platforms for learning and may introduce these in September if they are going to have to continue with what is being called "the blended model of education" when children were not at school full time.

Question: Will GCSEs be different next year?

Answer: Jenny Read said that they just do not know. She said they had hopefully put Year 9s a little ahead by putting them into their Option groups now. If they were in a position where schooling is limited in the next academic year then there will be changes across the whole Country in GCSEs but at the moment they have to hope that Year 9 are still in a good position. They have been moved into Option Groups, have been set work for that and hopefully if things return to normal in September, Year 9 should not be too disadvantaged.

Question: What will the opening times be?

Answer: Heidi Gale confirmed that this information would come out next week.

6th Form:

Faye Parker Dennis informed parents that she had been in contact with UCAS about preparing for Post 18 choices and they were not behind. On line days are out there and she is liaising with Nottingham Trent University to put some UCAS presentations in place. She confirmed that she would shortly be contacting parents and students about this.

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Heidi Gale finished by stressing to parents that the school would not be opening unless they felt that it was completely safe to do so.

Date of next meeting: THURSDAY 2ND JULY 2020 at 6pm

To register your interest for the next meeting please email:
parents@bramcote.college