

Merchant Taylors' School Parents' Association

MINUTES

Tuesday 17th January, 2017

Staff Present

David Cook – Headmaster (Chair)	DC
Sarah Maitland – Parent Liaison Co-ordinator	SM
Deiniol Williams – Deputy Head (Pastoral)	DW
Michaela Riches – Director of Marketing	MR

Parents

Jo Hodgkinson, Sui Chan, Rachael Randles, Suzanne Scott, Tricia Blyth, Claire Porteous, Leanne Bovill, John Tisdall, David Finnegan, Caroline Sullivan, Anne Smith

Apologies

Jane Sharrock, Diane Evans, Alison Horspool, Helen McLoughlin, Dawn Craig, Caroline Gladwin, Steve Smith, Cathy Austin

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the previous meeting having been circulated and agreed, were signed off by the Chair.

Update on pastoral care within the school by Deiniol Williams, Deputy Headmaster (Pastoral)

DW described the pastoral team within MTBS:

Form Tutors: the first port of call for guidance and support. Form Tutors get to know the boys very well and are there for routine and day-to-day care and advice. There are 35 form tutors throughout the school. Form tutors run the PSHE programme and deal with routine behavioural issues.

Heads of Year/Group Tutors: support the form tutors and are referred to for more serious disciplinary/behavioural issues. Heads of Year and Group Tutors run year group assemblies.

Deputy Headmaster (Pastoral): Has oversight off all the above and responsibility for discipline at MTBS. This role has a strategic view over the entire school and works to improve and amend current policies following national changes. This role is the safeguarding lead and the liaison for the school to outside agencies, specialists and staff. Mr Williams also acts as a pastoral mentor to several pupils.

DW described the PSHE system within MTBS:

Mr John Turner: Heads up the Personal Social Health and Education system and co-ordinates the programme to ensure it is balanced and relevant. Natural evolution means that boys change and issues change so this programme is constantly revalued. Mr Turner is also a trained counsellor so boys can make appointments for a one-to-one session in a non-judgemental environment. Visiting specialist speakers are invited in from outside to talk to pupils and subjects covered recently have been: mental resilience, computer addiction, sexual activity and pornography, understanding the male brain (which differs from the female brain!)

Peer Support System: Run by Mr Rob Richardson. U6th volunteers take on the vital role as peer supporters to Year 7 pupils and have between 3 and 4 meetings a term with them to see how they are getting on at MTBS and discuss any issues they may have. Year 7 pupils find it easier to talk to older pupils and will listen to what they have to say.

Civility: DW explained that he is extremely keen to ensure the boys are civil towards each other and show good manners. The boys are encouraged to support each other and to consider the impact unkind actions or words will have on the recipient – it is cool to be kind.

DW took questions from the floor and was asked about the use of mobile phones during the school day. MTBS has a restrictive mobile phone policy but since the introduction of Firefly this requires updating to reflect the use of handheld devices for pupils to access their Firefly accounts. However, this is not an excuse for boys to have unfettered access to their phones so this policy is currently being reviewed as it does not reflect best practise.

The Headmaster reminded parents that boys in the Lower School are encouraged to take part in 3 lunch time activities each week and form tutors constantly encourage them to do so. The HM reiterated that school can only support what guidelines are laid down at home.

Chairman's Report

The HM read a letter from Toby Maitland who thanked the PA for the kind donation of £250 towards his fundraising for Cancer Research. Toby cycled 900 miles from Lands End to John O'Groats in July 2016.

The HM let the meeting know of recent successes:

- A team of senior pupils has made the final of the Maths Challenge in London
- An U6th pupil has become the U17 Merseyside Cross Country Champion as well as joining the GB triathlon training team
- An U6th pupil has been selected for the North England U18 Rugby squad
- 2 MTBS pupils and 1 MTGS pupil have been offered Oxbridge places

Nearly New Uniform/Lost Property

Claire Porteous and Suzanne Scott informed the meeting that the system is working very well and is well utilised by boys every Tuesday. Dr Hardy and 2 sixth form pupils are extremely proactive in returning named kit.

Events for the Spring Term 2017

- Information was handed out about our specialist speaker this term. Mr James Shone will speak about overcoming adversity and making good choices. Mr Shone will visit the school on March 15th and talk to boys in Years 10&11 and Years 7, 8 and 9. Mr Shone will also talk to our staff followed by an evening presentation for parents on how to empower our sons to be more resilient. More information to follow.
- CCF Inspection Day will be at the start of the Summer Term and Sarah Maitland will be in touch to ask for volunteers to help with refreshments towards the end of this term.

Any Other Business

- The current situation with boys only finding out last minute if they have or have not been chosen for a Saturday fixture was discussed and the HM agreed that busy parents should be given as much notice as possible. The HM to discuss the current process with the Sports Department and review it. The HM also pointed out that we are one of a minority of schools who still carry out Saturday fixtures – and not require boys to miss timetabled lessons in the week and this was warmly received by the meeting.
- Comment was made that the catering facilities were making a difference and Hall Road and much appreciated.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 25th April @ 7pm in the Ian Robinson Sports Centre.

/SMT
end