

Harrogate High School Parents' Forum

01/02/23

6.00pm

Library

Chair: Lucy Greenwood (Deputy Headteacher)

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions

LG and SGI introduced themselves and welcomed parents/carers.

2. Apologies

No apologies received.

3. Minutes and actions follow-up

LG referred to action completed from last meeting: LG saw site/estate manager the following day to check and mend locks on some toilet doors. He builds this into his checks.

4. Student Leadership at HHS (Student Leaders)

Student Leaders from Year 11 (Red, Innes, Sian and Lucy) presented to parents / carers on their roles and responsibilities and the student leadership structure. Innes explained how students applied and how they were interviewed early in the year by staff including heads of years. Then form reps are elected and have opportunities to feed back to the student leadership team on school strengths, areas for development and ideas.

Sian described some of the things student leaders have done over the last year, including assemblies on littering, sustainability work, student panels at staff interviews, community day planning and a visit to a recycling plant to explore recycling possibilities. Lucy spoke about future actions and initiatives, such as the travel ambassadors awards, going single use plastic free, collaboration with other schools on sustainability and work on the school garden.

Red described some of the work different age groups of leaders were doing. She also spoke about recent meetings, promoting cleaning up after ourselves and working with our caterers (Aspens) on menus and feedback.

Parents/Carers then asked questions and offered suggestions including:

1. Approaching North Yorkshire county council about plastic-free solutions.
2. What are your ideas regarding plastic free? – Sian responded that we are looking at HHS reusable bottles among other things.
3. A parent said she might be able to offer ideas around the use of reconditioned IT equipment + a possible visit to her workplace (Chloe Favell – Techbuyer).

ACTION: Student leaders to take this idea to their next meeting.



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4. Are you collaborating with other schools? – Students responded that two leaders are members of the trust 'Next Generation' board + they collaborate with all other students in the trust.

Student leaders left the meeting and were thanked.

5. Inclusion (Sukhraj Gill)

Mr Gill gave a handout to parents/carers regarding inclusion and different provisions at HHS (The universal offer, the hub and the bridge). After reading this, Mr Gill gave a brief overview of how HHS is trying to move efficiently to meet students' needs as appropriate provision is sparse across North Yorkshire and the LA are often unable to find a breadth of solutions for students needing extra support. We have implemented 3 pathways/solutions to support different learners as effectively as possible.

Parents/carers then asked questions around:

1. How can we reduce student anxiety surrounding working in the hub as they can feel a certain stigma linked to learning support?
ACTION: Mr Gill to discuss with our SENDCO
2. What are the criteria for going into the hub? Sometimes children want to work in there but can't.
3. Another parent said that they were discussing this at home and their Year 10 child understood that, to work in the hub, students have to require learning support. – Mr Gill continued this.
4. A parent said her Year 7 child has struggled in science in particular due to low level disruption.
5. Another parent said it seems that a very small number of students can disrupt, but with a supple teacher this get far worse. A second parent said that children are unacceptably badly behaved for supple teachers and parents and teachers need to give this message to the children.
ACTION: Mr Gill to speak with parents of Year 7 students to gain more information. Mr Gill to ensure students are reminded in assemblies about expectation with supple teachers.
6. A parent asked if we target students for work in the hub or if they volunteer? – LG replied that students are targeted based on learning needs.
7. A parent asked if students with amber on reports are targeted? – Mr Gill described the waves of support: Wave 1 = in class support (Sharing information and strategies with class teachers), Wave 2 = additional personalised support and Wave 3 = highly personalised intervention.

A discussion then ensued around year 6 to year 7 transition and support for students with additional needs – SGI outlined our transition process.



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6. AOB

A parent asked why striking teachers do not set work for their students – Mr Gill explained the legislation and guidance, which states that we cannot ask staff to set work, nor can we ask staff to cover for them. This is out of our hands as it is staff choice to strike and we have to adhere to the guidance.

Meeting ended 7.32pm.



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