

Harrogate High School Parents' Forum
11/10/23
6.00pm
Library

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions.

Mr Gill welcomed parents/carers.

Mr Gill introduced Miss Mistry as the Assistant Head Teacher for Q of E and stakeholder engagement. Miss Mistry will also be responsible for PF moving forward.

2. HHS Pledge

We have developed the Harrogate High School staff pledge, this is the values of HHS. The pledge started with Mr Gill, then SLT, ML's and then staff all feeding into it.

Mr Gill read out the pledge – This has already been sent out to parents.

The staff pledge forms 1 of the 3 parts of the new home school agreement. This is not a promise but it's a pledge for us all to work towards.

All staff are buying into this.

We are an improving school, there will be teething problems, but this is the highest standard we are working towards.

Student Charter

This has been built by our student leadership through tutors.

This includes the student's rights as well as responsibilities.

Parent Carer Pledge.

This is based on the previous home school agreement.

This has been created with the feedback that Parents has given us as well as school consult.

Mr Gill read out the pledge.

The HHS Pledge, the Student Charter and the Parent Carer Pledge come together for the home school agreement, we are not going to ask parents to sign this due to when they decide to send their child to the school, they're already agreeing to it. It's about being positive and what we are all living up to, to make HHS the best possible school it can be.

A Parents/carers shared their opinion – Think that's its important.

The first set of bullet points don't make sense, need to adjust the wording of the opening.

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A Parents/carers asked about what is in place to make staff adhere?

Mr Gill – Policies such as staff code of conduct and teacher standards are already in place. This is more about the values being at the heart of what we do. This is a new chapter as we continue to improve and we're revisiting what we are about as a school. The policies sit behind the pledge, these are to be positive, not a stick to beat people with and its about striving to be the best we can be.

Richard Is here to validate what we do; we've already started the CPD and implementation work and we are already working on improvements.

We have started working on stakeholder engagement work and groups.

We have had less supply teachers in.

We have raised high standards on uniform, which has led to uniform being much better.

We have started lining up to regulate behaviour – some Parents/carers asked why as it was wasting lesson time? – It actually improves the amount of lesson time as the students are more regulated once they're in their lessons after lining up.

We are holding the line on these standards; this has resulted in some negative comments from parents but it is about holding the line on raising standards and making improvements.

Everything is values based, so its all about holding up our values.

A Parents/carers asked Why is the school advertising for a Learning Director of Mathematics?

Mr Gill – Unfortunately our current learning director of Maths is having to travel in and is struggling to commute and sustain the journey, he is still here and is working his notice.

We have had some applicants, so it is looking promising.

RW – We did predict this and knew he was good, so it was worth having him for a short term.

Picking up the supply note, all staff are now covering short term illness.

Mr Gill – Mr Ali has been putting in excellent work and is working to a natural transition. He is also putting in the extra effort whilst he is still here.

A Parents/carers asked If an appointment is made will this be before Mr Ali leaves?

Mr Gill explained that this was what we are aiming for to ensure we are fully staffed without any disruption.

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3. Governor Update

RW – The first governor meeting of the year was last week.

Structures are in place for improvement, these were in place anyway, but Ofsted just confirmed these structures.

4. Attendance and Behaviour

Data shows challenge/Push back which shows that it is being constantly reinforced.

This should settle in following the half terms.

The governors are coming into school over the next few weeks.

Mr Gill – Mr Dixon is currently off; this shows the consistency because it is still happening during his absence.

A Parents/carers asked If behaviour is better or are you dealing with it better?

Mr Gill – Bit of both, we are seeing improvements in our results as we continue to keep challenging.

RW – If teachers aren't being consistent then the students aren't.

A Parent/carers asked If the school are receiving any kick back from parents?

Mr Gill – Yes

Parent/carers – We need to collectively support and an example of a way we can support this is the lining up.

Parent/carers – I don't agree, my child doesn't get school lunch so they're waiting outside for other students.

Parent/carers – The wider issue is about how long the students are getting for lunch.

Mr Gill – It may have happened initially, but we let them stay and eat to ensure that all students are eating.

As line up improve this will result in less lesson time lost.

Parent/carers asked What about making lunches longer and making the school day longer?

Mr Gill – We must be systematic at change, and we are looking at this. We cannot change everything at once.

We are not taking any time off from the lunch, this remains at 30 minutes.

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We will look at altering this for any days with bad weather, but this has been working positively, yes there are going to be some issues but we've tried to mitigate against them.

RW – The Data shows improvement.

Stakeholder Engagement we've pushed more comms.
We have a lot of work to do but we are working on this.
Governor is going to link it.

Life and personal development.
Governors are coming in to look at this curriculum and lessons.

Curriculum implementation.
We've been in to look at two model lessons, it was good with some good foundations, but more consistency is needed.

The actions are working, some are too early to tell but as governors we're happy that the school is doing the right thing.

Mrs Dickinson introduced herself, explained who she is, what she does and how to contact her.

Creating support – Started to work alongside families.

Different approaches –

- Targeted support for students struggling to come into school.
- Looking at CBT approaches and Exposure approaches.

Every family I work with is different and I adapt to suit each family, it is very bespoke.

As well as targeted approaches I also do the following things:

- Workshops for families to upskill parents.
- Monthly coffee morning with Guest speakers.

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- Continue widening links such as police, food banks – hopefully coffee morning will help grow this.

18 Years of experience.

RW – What would you say are the most common themes?

Mrs Dickinson – Impact of covid. Underlying issues and trauma going on.

General mental health and wellbeing post pandemic.

National Response.

Well being in mind team in school.