

# HODGSON ACADEMY PARENT FORUM

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017

7.30pm in the Learning Centre

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Martin Pickles, Finance Director and Jeanette Bristow, Assistant Principal opened the meeting and welcomed parents to the meeting.

Apology received from Rosemary Hanmore

### 2. Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed

### 3. IT in School

Frazer James, ICT Network Manager gave a talk to the Forum in respect of ICT facilities within school.

#### **Comments made:-**

- Expand the topic of ICT and use of various ICT systems including the website to the Year 7 Steps to Success Evening.
- Extra-curricular activities on the website were sometimes difficult to find – on a separate issue there were some concerns re ever changing extra curricula timetable/cancellations
- Event calendar on website not working well on some browsers

### 4. School Publications

The Prospectus was considered to be a very good publication.

One concern raised that there should be a little more diversity within the pictures shown to reflect as best as we could the student population.

Hodgson Highlight was very well received. A concern was raised over the cost of the publication.

### 5. Student Planner

The Planner was considered to be a very worthwhile publication but there were concerns as to whether it was used as well as it could be

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## 6. Any Other Business

Parents were advised of a **new 'App'** that is being considered and as to what they might like to see in such an 'app'

- Contact details for communicating with school
- Info such as term/holiday dates would be welcome
- Info re Pause Plus Points (highlighted) would be welcome
- Alerts re attendance/ non-attendance and lates
- Differences between parental access and student access would be needed
- Extra Curricular clubs to be included and also alerts if a club is cancelled so parents can make arrangements for pick up.
- Concerns about students accessing personal information such as health/ special needs info that maybe the child was not aware of.
- Concerns about who has access to the app, such as parents who may be listed on the parental responsibility section, but could they have access to ex husband/wife and those associated with them (e.g new partner's) contact details?

### **Lockers**

A concern had been raised about the lack of student lockers. Parents were advised that the following reasons were behind the schools decision not to have lockers.

- Cost
- Space (lack of)
- Disruption re time (students going backwards and forwards to/from lockers)
- Disruption re keys (lost keys)
- Disruption re damage

These points were acknowledged.

Some concerns were addressed re weight of bags – do students carry too much when they don't need to. Maybe some recommendations could be made in the future as to the types of bags to use and what needs to be brought into school on a daily basis.

## 7. Dates of Future Meetings

- Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017 - 7.30pm start
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