

## PARENT VOICE

### Notes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 12 March 2014 in the Hub Computer Room (A2)

**Present:**

Sarah Adams	Graham Ramsden
Rose Budge	Mark Renton
Lorraine Dennis	Julie Roberts
Heather Fieldsend	Helen Shaddick
Susie Guyler	Emma Smale
Donna Langmead	Mary Taylor
Bett Leonard	Nicola Whittaker

**Apologies:**

Lorraine Bennett	Katie Nickell
Jo Galbraith	Nikki Rostock
Jo Dunbavin	Julie Turner
Lyn Friend	Keith Turner
Alison Moody	
Nigel Moody	

**Welcome and Introductions** – Rose welcomed everyone to meeting and initiated introductions. Rose outlined the purpose of the meeting; to provide an opportunity to find out the views and opinions of parents about a range of school issues. It was hoped to hold termly meetings, to seek the views of parents on school initiatives and practices.

Rose reiterated the importance that the school places on engaging with parents and hopes that this forum can be used to forge and develop valuable links between parents and the school.

#### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2013 were accepted as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### **ELearning**

Graham Ramsden (Assistant Headteacher) introduced himself and outlined the digital learning initiatives within the school. He explained that the vision of the school was to increase active and independent learning, allowing the more able to fly whilst also supporting the less able. Graham ran through the **OWL** programme (Our World of Learning), enabling parents to experience what goes on in a typical lesson. The digital environment is suitable for a range of learning styles, and includes a range of tools eg **My GCSE pod** for KS4 pupils. This is a downloadable tool with audio facility for discreet use.

Mr Ramsden outlined **I am Learning**, which is a games-based learning system combining interactive competition with educational format, incorporating a rewards points system. Users earn access to the games element by completing educational

sections. The system awards bonus points for use outside school hours. The school has bought into the scheme for an initial 12 month period. Homework set can be viewed via the onscreen calendar.

Mr Ramsden acknowledged that text books remain the preferred option for some students, with note-taking skills remain an essential part of revision.

**Access to IT Facilities:**

Mr Ramsden outlined the move by some schools to provide access to digital media across the curriculum, enabling students to use multi-media effectively in conjunction with more traditional learning materials. Discussion took place on mechanisms to enable more consistent internet access both within and outside school, including the provision of tablets to pupils on a contract basis. The merits of a centralised system included trackability of items; replacement scheme for lost/damaged equipment; option to block camera facility; and bulk installation of applications was discussed, with access and use managed by the school. The need for an Acceptable Use Policy was discussed. Some concerns were raised by the potential effects on eyesight and sleep patterns. Mr Ramsden advised that existing access to IT within the school requires reviewing and updating. Some parents felt that resources could be directed in other areas.

Mr Ramsden thanked the parents for their valued input into discussions.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **TUESDAY 10 JUNE AT 6.30 PM**

*Rose thanked everyone for coming and looks forward to the next meeting.*