

## Parent Council Minutes Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

### Work Experience!

I made a plea for your help in supporting us in finding additional possible placements for our current Year 10 cohort. I have attached here an introduction that we send to possible employers which provides some context, but in summary we are looking for four-day placements (Monday 8th to Thursday 11th July), and any employer that can help or would like to find out more should get in touch with our Work Experience Co-ordinator Camilla Al-Hariri either on 0207 563 6924 or at [c.al-hariri@kingsolomonacademy.org](mailto:c.al-hariri@kingsolomonacademy.org)

We already have number of placements lined up at organisations such as local primary schools, education charities, Church Street Library and a small number of construction, engineering and construction firms.

We are now looking to broaden our range of opportunities, ideally looking for placements in retail as well as in more formal, office-based environments.

### Communicating with parents

We discussed how to improve communication between the school and parents. You reminded me of a discussion we have previously about the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keeping messages short</li> <li>▪ Lots of separate, short messages is better than one long message with lots of sections</li> <li>▪ Stick to the vital information in the main message and then have links to any extra information</li> </ul> <p>Reflecting on the letter about Eid for example, the main message could have been “Even though it is likely to be Eid tomorrow, the training day won’t change and the school will still be open. To find out more, including about how to report a planned absence, click here...”</p> <p>We also reflected on the different methods of communication: text, email, Apps and WhatsApp and the consensus was that the school trialling WhatsApp for Business as a message broadcasting service could be a good idea.</p>	<p>Max, Beth, Katarine and I will discuss the WhatsApp idea and consider its implications ahead of the next academic year.</p> <p>I will also share the feedback about short, focussed messaging that is easy and accessible for all.</p> <p>Finally, as I said, whatever we do about communications moving forwards, we can’t give up on getting all parents regularly using email. If Paddington Green currently have 90% of parents using email, we need to be ambitious about that too, as I think for individual teacher-parent communication, it does have significant benefits.</p>
<p><b>Parent Reports and Parents Evening</b></p> <p>Primary</p>	<p>I will share the feedback around the running of primary parents evening with the team and I think as we discussed, one obvious solution is to have leaders increasingly</p>

<p>We discussed the intention to continue with the same (or similar) format of parent reports in the primary school and a similar format for parent evenings. We reflected that the most significant challenge recently had been queues and timings over-running, leading to some parents being missed out or having much shorter meetings than planned.</p> <p>Secondary</p> <p>We reflected on the trial this year of parents meeting just one teacher rather than all of their subject teachers. While this had made organising easier and allowed for a slightly lengthier conversation, the feedback is that parents do want the opportunity to meet all the subject teachers. On reports, we discussed that just receiving a numbered grade for each subject was not very helpful and that more context needed to be provided.</p>	<p>available in corridors and around the school during parents evening to support teachers and parents in keeping the schedule on track.</p> <p>In Secondary, we will return one of the two parent evenings to being an event where all subject teachers are seen. Most likely with the plan being that the first parent evening of the year will run as they have done this year, with parents meeting just one teacher for a longer conversation, before later in the year, at the second parent evening, being able to meet all of the subject teachers to discuss academic progress in more detail.</p> <p>Finally, we are going to edit the secondary report format slightly to include a rationale for the grade in each subject, and where possible, some comparative data.</p>
<p><b>The Access Project</b></p> <p>A concern was raised that ‘it is always the same children being chosen’ for things like Kings Scholars, the Access Project and other academic or university preparatory activities. And even</p>	<p>We are going to communicate more clearly, at the very start of the year, about opportunities like Kings Scholars and The Access Project and how pupils are chosen. Where there is</p>

<p>though (as I explained), the Kings Scholar's group is chosen by Kings University using anonymous contextual information, there was a view that the experience of being a Kings Scholar, may support you in being a more successful candidate for The Access Project and then other opportunities into the future.</p> <p>This raised a broader conversation about the support and enrichment opportunities that we make available for pupils of all different prior attainment levels. There was a concern that through things like The Access Project, the opportunities available to support higher attaining pupils are more obvious than the work being done to support pupils who are finding making progress in some subjects difficult.</p>	<p>an application process for any particular opportunity, the selection criteria will be shared with parents far in advance and there will be a formal opportunity for those who apply to get feedback on their application regardless of their success in the application.</p> <p>I am also going to do some thinking about how we share with parents the full range of opportunities available to pupils and families to support academic progress and to address any concerns they may have about attainment in different subjects, including different online platforms.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p> <p>We discussed the challenges we have had with staff retention in music this year and I was able to share news about the exciting team of music teachers that have been appointed for the year to come. We also discussed the model for the music curriculum and the strings programme returning to Year 4 from next year.</p>	<p>We are going to develop an extra-curricular music offer for the year ahead, and again share this will all parents early in the academic year so that families can opt-in to the activities available, which should include a small number of ABRSM tutorial places.</p>

