

St Katherine's School Parent/Carer Association

14 October 2021

<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Welcome to all parents/carers, particularly to new Year 7 parents attending their first Parent/Carer Association meeting. Meeting facilitator Mr Matt Maw, Deputy Headteacher. Mr Maw introduced Mr William Harding, Chair of Governors. Also present, Parent Governors, Caroline Smallwood and Sarah Earle.</p>
<p>2. Protocols</p>	<p>Mr Maw ran through the protocols for the evening</p>
<p>3. Introduction to Local Governor Board [LGB] (Mr Harding, Chair of Governors)</p>	<p>Mr Harding explained that St Katherine's is a part of the Cathedral Schools Trust. The Trust has established in each of its schools an LGB whose role is primarily focused on the governance of that school at local level. The LGB at St Katherine's comprises 10 governors elected for periods of up to 4 years and they have 3 core functions. The first is ensuring a clarity of vision for the school around its strategic direction, the second - it holds the Headteacher accountable for the educational performance of the school; and thirdly it has a responsibility for overseeing the financial performance of the school. This is done through a series of meetings throughout the year. Governors have specific link roles. Please refer to the Governance page on the school website for further details.</p> <p>Please contact the Clerk to Governors for any enquiries: clerk@skdrive.org and anyone interested in joining the LGB can contact Mr Harding via the Clerk.</p>
<p>4. Reporting (Miss Richards)</p>	<p>GL Reports</p> <p>These will be reported to parents shortly. National assessments used to assess cognitive ability, reading and spelling as well as progress in English, Maths and Science. This is primarily in Years 7, 8 and 9 but also we have looked at some of these assessments in Year 10.</p> <p>The tests give a percentile rank which compares against students in their year group in their range nationally. This gives a clear overview of where students are on baseline assessments. The data is used to map where we expect students to go as they move through Years 7, 8 and 9. Parents will be contacted where there are concerns via the Head of House or the SENDCo.</p> <p>Progress</p> <p>The GL assessments will be used alongside the CATS assessment and KS2 tests (if your child was in a year group who has done those). This gives a good idea of students' initial attainment when they joined St Katherine's. It also gives a</p>

	<p>good idea of where they can get and how they can progress. It also helps us to compare against their peer group within school and nationally at GCSE. Please refer to the curriculum guides on the website.</p> <p>Online Reports at KS3 Miss Richards highlighted the descriptors used in each of the subjects referencing and responding to the progress based on where the student started and what the progress currently shows.</p> <p>Questions Q. Concern regarding the language ‘and their peers’ in the Exceptional and Good descriptors - could this measure have a detrimental impact on students? A. Action - Miss Richards to go back and tweak descriptors so that it mirrors more closely the monitoring,</p> <p>Will there be opportunities to have in person meetings this year with teachers? A. We are looking at a model that will be as robust as possible and trialling a virtual parents evening currently. Covid is still with us and we are seeing this in school quite severely with both students and staff. We need to build a sustainable model - virtual events allow some parents to join who may not have been able to in the past. We welcome feedback as we work through the virtual evenings.</p> <p>Will there be enough slots at the virtual parents evenings to meet all the teachers? A. The system online is smarter, on the whole it will be easier to meet with most of the teachers. If there are specific concerns we can arrange phone calls and emails outside of parents evenings. We encourage ongoing conversations and Heads of House are always on hand to help with contact.</p> <p>Will reports tell us about our child and if they are doing well or is it just about statistics and how they are doing compared to their peers? A. At the moment we will have the same descriptors around how well students are doing with homework and in class. We are currently looking at widening this to include ethos indicators etc. Parental feedback and involvement will be important as we continue to look at this and move forward.</p>
<p>5. Progress evenings (Miss Richards)</p>	<p>Progress evenings Parents will be invited to either progress evenings online or a progress evening with your child’s Head of House if there are concerns. Parent checklist and guidance will be available for the online meetings. Feedback is welcome following each of the progress evenings.</p>

	<p>Questions</p> <p>Q. Is there any way the school could have a central point of contact if there are technical issues during the evening?</p> <p>A. We are hoping that some of the guidance will prevent some of the technical issues that parents have experienced.</p> <p>Q. Is the sheet Year 7 parents have received different to the GL reports?</p> <p>A. Yes, this was a settling in check and focuses on how children have settled, this will move onto a progress model moving forward.</p> <p>Q. Dyslexic assessments - how does this show up with regard to the progress checks?</p> <p>A. The SEND team will support with this. The SENDCo is Mrs Slater and she will contact parents/carers where there are concerns.</p> <p>Q. If progress is lower than expected, do you strive to where students' progress should be or will their predicted grade change?</p> <p>A. No, the predicted grade does not change. We have conversations with the student and will put in support to help them get there.</p> <p>General Questions</p> <p>Classcharts</p> <p>Messages regarding the buses have been sent through classcharts. Can this also be sent through to phones?</p> <p>A. Mr Maw to investigate.</p> <p>School Meals Options</p> <p>Options were limited during the last 18 months due to the multiple serving points when students were in Year bubbles. We have now moved back to the central dining area and the options have improved considerably with a full healthy meal each day and take away options.</p> <p>Please use the school@skdrive.org email address for any queries/concerns.</p>
6. Uniform	Mr Maw updated parents/carers.

We continue to feedback parent/carer experience to Monkhouse and share the frustrations.
Children will not be sanctioned because orders have not been fulfilled.
We will continue to review our suppliers and the service to parents/carers.

Q. Concerns regarding the quality of items.

A. We have a guarantee of quality. If parents/carers feel the quality is not up to standard one of the benefits we have of having a single supplier is that we can insist they change. Please report any concerns to the school so we can take this forward.

Q. Logos in different places?

A. There may be a double logo on some items to avoid waste. Students can continue to wear these items. Please let school know if this affects you and you will receive another free item.

Q. Monkhouse Customer Service is poor

A. Sizing issues - swaps can be made where sizes have changed, this can be done through school as we are building up supplies inhouse. We understand that some students will be wearing 'appropriate clothing' that may not be school uniform as sizing/fitting issues are resolved. Students will not be sanctioned where orders have not come through.

We share parents/carers frustrations. Please come through to the school if you are experiencing delays or if you need to return items. Please use sso@skdrive.org for any uniform queries.

Q. Will you consider not using Monkhouse going forward?

A. It is an ongoing process to review all contracts within the school.

Q. The Government passed a bill regarding branded uniform in February. As parents we have been asked to buy even more branded uniform than ever before.

A. The bill states that the Secretary of State for Education will issue guidance to schools on the costs of school uniform. We have not yet received that but continue to work to ensure that the cost of uniform is never a barrier to anyone who wishes to come to St Katherine's. Items of our uniform are cheaper than those for other local schools, we also keep the cost manageable at St Katherine's by encouraging anyone struggling to come to the school for support. We will also have second hand uniform going forward. Please speak to the Head of House if you need support for any items of uniform or any items such as coats, shoes, water bottles etc. they will be able to help. Also, the student support office can help with any uniform enquiries, please email them at sso@skdrive.org for any uniform concerns.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm