



Date: Thursday 14th October 2021

Attendees: F Corcoran (Principal)

J Arda (Assistant Principal)

Maebh Glemser (Caspar Y10)

Marcin Jagodzinski (Roger Y8)

Mary Murray (Dylan Y13)

Simona Bartocci Fletcher (Leila Y7)

Darren Koh (Matthias Y7)

Agenda – Meeting via Zoom

1. Minutes and matters arising

- Welcome back to the new academic year 2021-22 to everyone including our new Year 7 parents. A reminder that the group is to consult parents and gain feedback on matters related to the college as a whole. For individual matters relating to your son or daughter then please contact your child's tutor or Leader of Learning for this reason.
- There were queries about devices being deployed as part of the college's Technology for Learning programme. When a student logs into the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) system they are using the college internet where our security and filtering settings are applied. The Chrome Operating System is extremely secure by design against malicious software. College managed chrome devices also pass all internet requests through our firewall for filtering even when they are not directly connected to our network.
- Mr Arda has recently sent out a parent survey for Years 7-9 to assess the number of devices required. Pricing is dependent on the size of the device, storage, number of participating families with the indicative pricing of £12-15 over 3 years. This includes warranty and insurance. For Years 10 and 11, the Chromebook programme is dependent on a returnable £30 deposit using college-owned devices.
- Mr Jagodzinski and Ms Murray considered possibilities for parent events discussed in Item 4.

2. Brief update and overview on the College's academic year to date from the Principal

- Ms Corcoran has expressed thanks for feedback on a range of initiatives last year from parents.
- Since September, the college has looked to return to 'normal'. Testing and staggered starts have helped provide a safe start to the year. Students can now move e.g. to art and drama specialist areas. Orientation exercises for Years 7 and 8. 144/145 students attended the summer school.
- Health and safety – we had more cases recently whereby we have had to manage an outbreak that impacts upon students in lessons. Ms Corcoran has liaised with Public Health to see if PCR results could be obtained. The college has been able to prevent cases through thorough monitoring and regular home testing.
- Attendance has been good. The college is offering a space for an outside organisation to provide vaccinations. Parents with children aged 11 would like clarification – the college will provide one once information is available. Some parents have been offered vaccinations outside of the school.
- Students have been back to enrichment activities. The PE department have acquired funding for a minibus, which is on a lease basis. The minibus would be aided by fundraising to be sustainable in the long term.
- Teachers appreciate being back in specialist rooms. Prospective parents have been invited to open evenings using the EventBrite system that will be used next year. The college learned from the pandemic with visitors back in since 2020. The students have been great ambassadors. Mini-assessments are taking place in the run-up to half term.
- Catch-up funding is used towards employing Graduate Learning Mentors and progress is being tracked carefully for interventions. Many students are showing more mental health issues, so our college is supported by our school



nurse, mental health ambassadors, an online assessment and school wellbeing support. The PLEX assessment identifies study skills, exercise or sleep issues under the “Boost Curriculum” with support in place for students.

- Academic tutoring support will be applied after half term once our assessments have taken place.
- Lots of positives to report with inter-school events resuming.
- Flu vaccinations are being monitored after half term with immunisation teams later in the autumn term.
- The focus is on high quality teaching and learning with opportunities for extra-curricular activities to be the priority.
- Parents offered their reflections
 - Mr Jagodzinski – the open evening event and the ticket system – well done. He asked how many students are needed for the catch up programme and if the school needs extra funding. Ms Corcoran said the extra government funding is a crude measure with a set figure allocated. In terms of catch up, students’ data is derived from baseline assessments. For each year group, 25 students are targeted for further support.
 - Ms Corcoran responded that for Y11 and Y13 students they have undertaken additional examinations which have begun in the morning or this week and provide additional opportunities for exam practice.
 - In subjects e.g. Y9 Maths, the department has made adjustments to the curriculum in response to the summer results.
 - Ms Glemser – asked about graduate tutoring. St Michael’s has two ex-students working with targeted pupils. They were recruited through alumni via our LinkedIn social media groups. St Michael’s have 6 or 7 former students employed as teachers. Y12 and Y13 mentors have been trained.
 - Mr Arda explained that Elevate is a company with university graduates to support students’ independent learning skills. The programme has been embedded in form time activities along with St Michael’s teaching and learning focus upon metacognition (“Thinking about thinking”) and challenge for the highest grades.
 - Ms Bartocci Fletcher had two queries about curriculum and fundraising. She wanted to know if it was possible to extend Latin provision for all students or for them to learn a second language. Ms Corcoran responded – there is only one Latin teacher and students would have to reduce their timetable within other subjects to accommodate other languages. There are specific requirements for RE as well as English and Maths. The 25 hours a week are full – schools will vary their timetable accordingly. Latin could not be incorporated into RE as the college has to adhere to certain guidance from the Archbishop and Diocese of Southwark. Non-uniform day events already take place for children to raise money for local charities.
 - Mr Koh – Students for five days and summer school was run really well. The school has been very clear and provides guidance to parents.
 - Ms Murray – from September the staff have been fantastic. There’s not much more that can be done with clubs or what the school can do. Carry on!
- **Action:** The school to ascertain whether extra-curricular Latin could take place.

3. Technology for Learning – Years 11, 12 and 13 deployment of laptops

- Mr Arda introduced the Technology for Learning project. St Michael’s is moving towards students having 1:1 access to Chromebooks or use of their own device in the college.
- For KS4 – devices are now being made available for all of Y11 and some in Y10 before half term. By December, all of Y10-12 will have had access to a device.
- Parents use ParentPay to provide a deposit of £30. The Digital Learning Agreement includes our IT Policy to remind students of their responsibility in looking after and using the device. Once both are in place, then keys can be collected for a chargeable locker.
- For KS3 – a survey has been sent out as the college looks to find a sustainable way of students having access to technology in a way that is cost effective.



- Once the surveys have been completed, then negotiations with a preferred supplier can begin, as a greater volume can reduce costs for parents.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to provide update on programme.
- Ms Glemser asked what type of device has been obtained for students. Mr Arda said that no devices have been sourced specifically at KS3 as of yet as the college needs to ascertain the demand. Ms Glemser asked about fundraising for devices in the same way as for the stationery. She suggested an idea for donations to be made possible to the 1:1 programme through ParentPay.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to arrange with the Finance Team the option for parents to make discretionary donations via ParentPay with no obligation.
- Ms Murray queried whether the £30 deposit could be actively kept by the college. Mr Arda and Ms Corcoran explained there were restrictions. Subsequently, Ms Murray made a further suggestion for parents to have the option to gift the £30 deposit at the end of their child's use of the Chromebook to support investment.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to arrange option for the £30 deposit as a donation to the college.

4. Parent-run events & fundraising during 2021-22

- Mr Jagodzinski suggested possible events. Examples included: concert tickets e.g. single performance, musical events. An international day could celebrate our diversity. Sports or tennis sessions, bake-off event can take place.
- Calendar events – St Michael's Day on 29th September could take place to engage parents.
- Ms Corcoran stated that International Day is intended for summer term in July 2022.
- Events will take place after school while music events need preparation. Student performances were welcomed.
- Ms Corcoran referred to uniform donations as an idea from primary schools. These can be washed and sold/given to students in need.
- Mr Koh suggested a talent show.
- Ms Glemser suggested a Christmas Fayre, Mother's Day or Father's Day events. Ms Corcoran thought that selling Christmas cards could also be sold.
- **Action:** Ms Corcoran to speak with the Head of DT about sewing.
- **Action:** Asking parents with transferable skills – to add to a survey for parents.
- **Action:** Ms Corcoran and Mr Arda to identify events through the college calendar with Mr Kelly. Additionally, to find out how feasible it would be to deliver a 30 mins concert at Christmas with Mr & Mrs Laurence.

AOB

- Ms Corcoran thanked the parents for giving up their time to contribute to the meeting.
- **Action:** Mr Arda will share points through the website.
- **Action:** Ms Corcoran to check that uniform donations are possible through liaising with Public Health and then setting up dates/times for submission by parents.
- Students are contributing to Southwark Food Bank as part of the Harvest Festival.

Minutes to be sent via EduLink