



Date: Wednesday 16th March 2022

Attendees: F Corcoran (Principal)

J Arda (Assistant Principal)

Maebh Glemser (Caspar Y10)

Marcin Jagodzinski (Roger Y8)

Jeanne Nielsen (Otis Y11)

Flor Del Rosario (Althea Y7)

Darren Koh (Matthias Y7)

Arlyn fe Arce (Mia Y7)

Michelle Zini (Luca Y7)

Apologies: Simona Bartocci Fletcher (Leila Y7)

Tracey Prescott Burridge (Carter Y13)

Kim Howard-Rogers (Ellie Y10)

Charles Kiwuwa (Hadrian Y8)

Agenda – Meeting via Zoom

1. Minutes and matters arising

- Mr Arda updated points from the Parent Focus Group through the website.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to arrange with the Finance Team the option for parents to make discretionary donations via ParentPay with no obligation.
Our finance team have said that there is already a “Governors fund” option in Parent Pay. This may need highlighting to parents if they wish to make donations.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to arrange option for the £30 deposit as a donation to the college.
Our Finance Team has said that once the £30 Y10 & Y11 deposits for laptops/lockers have been made, the payment disappears from the screen on Parent Pay. The college can make the donation an option at the end of Y11/13 when devices are returned. A communication will be in place to inform parents/carers of the choice and then the amount can be refunded/donated as appropriate.
- **Action:** The school to ascertain whether extra-curricular Latin could take place.
Due to having staffing with the necessary expertise and clashes with other provision, it is not feasible at this stage to offer Latin.
- **Action:** Ms Corcoran to speak with the Head of DT about sewing.
A Textiles club runs each Thursday after school. In addition, there is a house competition scheduled to upcycle the school uniform with any clothes not reusable due to wear and tear. It continues the theme of sustainability within the college with the new Year 12 Eco-Committee, while helping to raise students’ awareness.
- **Action:** Asking parents with transferable skills – to add to a survey for parents.
This has been added to the parent survey. The college is keeping a list of volunteers with various skills.
- **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.
The music department produced a virtual event last autumn term with students and a short music recital through a YouTube video, which was shared with parents on week beginning Mon 13th December via EduLink.
- **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.
Mr Arda liaised with Mr Martin who set up a Year 12 Eco-Committee. They collected old, clean uniforms from students with a view to making them available for families who need them. The next step is to run a way of selling/making the uniform available.



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

- Ms Corcoran suggested for the future – a blended style of Parent Focus Group meeting – face-to-face and the option of Zoom for convenience.
- Ms Corcoran described face masks and health and safety requirements were maintained based on the community as a whole.
- The Faith in Action event took place with Fr Alan onsite with service to the community. There was an evening celebration with parents who were delighted to be in school.
- Trips and enrichment activities have also been reintroduced. Google have presented in an assembly today. Army and careers have also presented. Music exams can now also take place.
- Regular Covid absence including members of staff and students has been managed by the College and follows government guidance.
- Academically, mock exams are currently running, the beginning of parent events, and trips are being planned tentatively including a trip to France. The College encourage trips as valuable enrichment experiences.
- St Michael's is oversubscribed for 2022-23 with 700 applications for 150 College places. 400 applications were made for sixth form places. Two of our Parent Focus Group attendees have children arriving to the College in September!
- Faith in Action and chaplaincy is highly active including celebration of Ash Wednesday. Students have had the opportunity to speak with a priest for a rounded spiritual experience.
- The conflict in Ukraine has been carefully managed as well as the pandemic. St Michael's have used resources during tutor time to support students and discussion around current affairs.
- Parent points:
 - Does the College recommend the masks? Ms Corcoran said this is discretionary. This is under constant review to reflect government guidance.
 - ii) In light of events between Ukraine and Russia, how are students being supported? The College has identified students and intervened where necessary. The patron saint of Kyiv is St Michael. A prayer has been said within the College to be inclusive of all students.
 - iii) How is the College supporting all Russian students? The College is clear on supporting them through our pastoral system and ensuring that all students feel included and are not isolated.
- Proceeds have been made for Salesians in Ukraine. Items have been given to the Poland Centre. The College has links with the Salesian Order.
- Parents felt assured that the College has taken steps to ensure there are no misunderstandings about Russia. For example, Mr Magnoff, our Associate Assistant Principal and Head of History, has made a video explaining the conflict.
- **Action:** Could the video about the Ukraine and Russia conflict be shared with parents?

3. Technology for Learning – Update

- Mr Arda explained that since the last meeting, that Years 10-13 have consistent access to laptops in school or at home for learning. He added that laptops were prioritised and provided to all disadvantaged students and families.
- All parents participated in the Technology for Learning survey in Years 7-9. From this, the College was able to assess how many parents would be interested in the Freedom Tech lease-to-buy programme.
- A parent webinar was attended by 30 parents and in the end 66 orders were made by them for laptops across Key Stage 3. Most parents and students have opted to provide their own device.
- In terms of teaching and learning, technology is to be used by teachers as a tool at their professional discretion. Students will be notified the day before whether a laptop is required for a lesson.



- Ms Corcoran added that staff have had the opportunity of Google Training as part of a commitment to gaining Google Reference School status.
- Questions
 - How does the Google training impact? Mr Arda responded that the training includes the equivalent of office tools. It helps teaching staff with Google Classroom, productivity and for teaching resources.
- Ms Corcoran added that the newly formed eco-committee is to ensure more digital notices are to be used.
- Parents provided positive feedback about the use of the laptops by their children including remote learning helping students. Additionally, students who are isolating can attend live lessons and can hear the lesson while listening. Mr Arda spoke about how he had full Saturday school attendance with the help of Google software to support remote learning.
- Ms Corcoran also said that the College can run remotely with teaching and learning, financial matters and leadership duties all continuing. In this regard, the disruption for learning is minimised.

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

- Mr Arda opened parents' thoughts about summer events with the intention of participation, fundraising as the pandemic appears to ease.
- Parent fundraising and event ideas
 - Student laptops – a special day for fundraising for a laptop or sponsoring a uniform for parents who are struggling?
 - Parents able to sponsor e.g. an extra computer, computer or theatre ticket with ParentPay? Multiple not just one payment could be allowed?
 - Musical concert in the summer term. Ms Corcoran explained this usually takes place. The summer event could be devised with a programme or parents serving refreshments. An international day could be planned as an event. Different world religions are promoted by the College. The Diwali festival recently had food served. The Holi and Jewish festivals have also been promoted.
 - Food preparation and family sports day event.
 - Raffles. House charities have been active in using these.
 - A possible canvassing for restaurant vouchers. Parents who could donate their skills or expertise – including a parent selling ice cream in Y11!
- **Action:** Ms Corcoran and Mr Arda to discuss viable parent events and fundraising arrangements to be organised.

AOB

- Query – with over 900 students, is there a way to accommodate large numbers attending an event? Ms Corcoran explained that a ticketing system such as 'Eventbrite' used to operate Open Evening can help to manage significant numbers.

Minutes to be sent via EduLink