



Date: Thursday 30th June 2022 | 16:45 – 17:45

Attendees: F Corcoran (Principal) J Arda (Assistant Principal)
Simona Bartocci Fletcher (Leila Y7) Marcin Jagodzinski (Roger Y8)
Darren Koh (Matthias Y7) Nathalie Orlandi (Leila Y7)

1. Minutes and matters arising

- Mr Arda arranged with the Finance Team the option for parents to make discretionary donations via ParentPay. However, it was raised whether if donations could vary instead of a set amount. The Finance Department arranged an option for the £30 deposit as a donation to the college.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to look into with the Finance Department if ParentPay donations can be within a range instead of a set payment.
- The video, created by Mr Magnoff, about the Ukraine and Russia conflict was shared with parents via EduLink.
- Ms Corcoran and Mr Arda discussed viable parent events and fundraising opportunities for parents. The next event is the Parent Showcase taking place on 7th July from 4-7pm. Parents discussed the set up of refreshments for attendees of the event. Mr Arda has recruited three parents who expressed an interest in volunteering through the annual parents' evening surveys. They are available at various times.
- **Action:** Parents and staff to contribute cakes for the parent group to sell at the Parent Showcase event on Thursday 7th July. Mr Arda to coordinate volunteer parents and liaise with Mr Kelly.

2. Catholic life in the College

- Ms Corcoran explained that St Michael's was meant to have a Diocesan inspection before the pandemic. The Senior Leadership Team has been training in terms of our Salesian values within Catholic life and ensuring faith formation is part of the College's wider work.
- Student surveys have been taking place this week with results indicating 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to being aware of the College's Salesian values. Student also experience world religions events such as Eid, Diwali, Sukkot festivals.
- Student chaplaincy teams and Holy Day of Obligation – events took place within the chapel. Student-led chaplaincy, music and readings are taking place. In the sixth form, 20 students volunteered to be part of the chaplaincy team. At the end of the year, a staff mass takes place, which role models the expectation, in addition to a mass every Friday morning in the chapel.
- The priority is to raise awareness with parents that Catholic life is integral. A question was raised about chaplaincy bulletins. Students see the chaplaincy bulletin once a term.
- **Action:** The Link Newsletter and Chaplaincy bulletins to be shared with parents.

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

- Ms Corcoran explained that a full academic year without remote learning. Autumn term was difficult with outbreaks, particularly in sixth form and Year 10. A full set of examinations have taken place. For Y13, it is their first set of public examinations given Covid while in Y11.



- Revision week and an emphasis upon student preparation took place. Managing exam anxiety with sessions in place for students.
- Awarded the UCL Holocaust Foundation award in recognition of the College's work to support discussions around discrimination and other conflicts such as Rwanda, Ukraine and Bosnia. Quality first teaching is the priority.
- The College has made use of a peer review process with London South Teaching School Alliance and also with Bonus Pastor and St Ursula's. This has enabled developmental work in specific subjects. The primary school partnerships have included looking at maths practice. The College aligns with other schools as emphasis is upon joining multi-academy trusts.
- Next week is Careers and Enterprise Week then after that is Arts Enrichment Week. Students will have opportunities to find out about jobs related to subject areas. Trips to Cambridge took place today with current students in Year 11 and the sixth form. Along with students in The Brilliant Club programme, these various events take place to raise student aspirations.
- The College is developing a balance between academic and enrichment activities. Trips to London Zoo, Maritime Museum, The Globe, having a picnic in the park are examples of activities lined up for students.
- Sports Day is only open to students and staff. Although the College would like to invite parents, the number of individuals at the event would be logistically too challenging.
- International Day takes place on 15th July during the last day for students. They can dress in the colours of their flag and to represent their nation.

4. Technology for Learning – Update

- Mr Arda shared that the College has attained Google Reference School status. This is only afforded to schools that use technology effectively. St Michael's has invested heavily into lockers and laptops for students to prepare for the future in an unknown world. The case and point is the pandemic – St Michael's very quickly adapted during lockdown to remote teaching and learning using laptops and Google Classroom. This would not have been possible without the years of work prior to advocate the use of technology. Exam boards are already trialling online exams, so St Michael's is taking the next steps for students to be well prepared.
- The next step is for every student to have a laptop. While in practice that is what the College would like to provide, it is not financially viable. Therefore, the College expects students to have a laptop in one of three ways: i) bring your own device (BYOD), ii) use the lease-to-buy scheme with Freedom Tech, iii) the College provides a laptop for students in receipt of Free School Meals.
- A parent commented that communication has been clear and that webinars have been available. Parents have been able to ask questions though wanted a clarification in expectations.
- Another parent expressed concerns about the amount of screen time and how devices are used at school. Students have lockers to keep laptops safe and to charge. The use of laptops is likely to be a gradual change with teachers using them as a tool, as and when required. By the lesson before, teachers are to let students know on Google Classroom if laptops are needed in the next lesson. Writing skills was expressed as another concern. Ms Corcoran explained that writing is a school improvement priority and that teachers will be planning specific strategies for the next academic year.
- Communication about the laptop deposits were raised by a parent. Mr Arda explained that the College was on a journey of introducing the use of technology by all students with laptops and that the system had been very successful with KS4 and KS5. Subsequently, Mr Arda has had several phone calls, emails and face-to-face meetings with parents to gain a wide range of views and that the College was shaping its partnership with parents based on the feedback. Additionally, he has delivered four webinars to parents this academic year. Mr Arda stated that working with parents is a learning process with the Technology for Learning programme and that consultation is



ongoing. Considering wider parent feedback, the model for deposits will be revised and to emphasise that £10 will be required to replace any lost laptop locker key. Any student borrowing a College-owned device, particularly those in receipt of Free School Meals, will need to pay a deposit of £30 as a commitment.

- Security concerns about students taking home laptops were discussed. Ms Corcoran said that mobile phones were of a greater concern, especially when they had values that far exceeded laptops at £800-£900, and if students showed these in public. In relation to students and their use of bags, Ms Corcoran explained that departments are moving to use of online text books and that students do not need to bring all books every day.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to complete communications with parents, devise expectations about laptops, anticipate any concerns, and shape the Technology for Learning programme with these points. Parents to be informed by September 2022.
- Parents praised the letter from St Michael's regarding use of mobile phones at night, which supports them being not used by students at this time. Parents talked about not knowing what children were looking at online and to emphasise that they needed to be safe. Concerns such as peer-on-peer abuse were mentioned.
- **Action:** Parents asked to contribute to guidance by parents for parents about e-safety. In this way, this could be shared to promote positive parent contributions.
- **Action:** Ms Corcoran will reiterate the College's policy on mobile phone use.
- Overall, the concept of Technology for Learning is highly supported by parents, and there was a recognition that this will evolve over time to find the best possible experience for students.

AOB

- As today is Year 13 Prom Night, the meeting ended. Some brief final points about uniforms being made available for next academic year were made.
- **Action:** Messages about uniform donations for an exchange to be sent out. Mr Kelly has spoken with Mr Corcoran.

Minutes to be sent via EduLink