



Date: Wednesday 22nd March 2023 | 16:45 – 18:00 (Via Zoom)

Attendees: J Arda (Assistant Principal)

Marcin Jagodzinski (Maia Y7 and Roger Y9)

Darren Koh (Matthias Y8)

Erika Collins (Alana Y8)

Funke Jenfa (David Y12)

Toyin Adenuga (Tobi Y7)

Hannatu Maikano (Aliannah Y7)

Magdalene Brimah (Adriel Y9)

Nathalie Orlandi (Matthew Y8)

Silvia Murray (Ciara Y11)

Rita Loggali (Togun Y8)

Aidan Keightley (Hannah Y8)

Vincentia Odirichukwu (Chidinma Y8)

Apologies: F Corcoran (Principal)

Arlyn fe Arce (Mia Y8)

Maebh & Jochen Glemser (Caspar Glemser Y11)

Michelle Zini (Luca Y8)

Flor Del Rosario (Althea Y8)

Simona Bartocci Fletcher (Leila Y8)

Ms Aberepikima

Jeanne Nielsen (Lewis Y8)

1. Minutes and matters arising

- Ms Corcoran gave her apologies due to matters arising including the Diocesan inspection taking place on 23rd and 24th March along with other commitments. We encourage parents to share their views and to complete the survey.
- Mr Arda arranged for a summary of information for Google Classroom and use of phones and safety settings. This information was shared with parents via <https://www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk/online-safety/>.
- The parent online safety survey sent out by Nathalie Orlandi received 17 responses. The College since had a well-attended online safety event.
- Macrui Dostourian-Moppett wrote a standard letter template for other parents to support school funding campaigns and Mr Arda provided feedback. Ms Corcoran checked for advice for writing to the Council regarding funding arrangements for schools. She used Ms Dostourian-Moppett's letter to inform parents of the context surrounding teacher strikes.
- Mr Arda arranged screenshots for parents to be shown how the Google Classroom notification works. They can check when their child is required to bring in a laptop and when to complete homework.
- Rita Loggali said that she had a Freedom Tech device issue. Mr Arda recommended her to email contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk so that technical support could be provided to her.
- Erika Collins has kindly donated uniform items.
- Mr Arda queried the back gate opening when students are released at the end of the day. There is usually a member of the Premises Team or Senior Leadership Team that open the gate.
- Mr Arda reviewed the calendar for events. Events as per the Chaplaincy calendar, typically take place straight after school when parent volunteers may have less availability. This item was discussed today with a view to parents organising a key fundraising event on Thursday 6th July.

2. Parents evenings feedback

- Mr Arda explained how parents are extremely positive about the college. There is a lot of feedback received about through the surveys this and every year.
- Parents were asked to reflect about their parents evening experiences.
- Marcin Jagodzinski asked about Year 9 parents evening. Mr Arda said Year 9 Options Evening takes place on Tuesday 25th April while Year 9 Parents' Evening is the next day on Wednesday 26th April. In essence, parents and



their child are able to see the Head of Departments promoting their subject areas and have an opportunity to discuss suitability for courses face-to-face with staff.

- He added that in the recent Year 7 evening, while he was able to connect, couldn't hear anything – strengths and weaknesses. 5 mins is enough for relevant questions.
- Mr Arda explained that Years 10 and 11 will return to face-to-face evenings. He clarified that teachers of these year groups often only have one class. Therefore, parents were much more likely to have the appointments they required with teachers.
- A query was asked if there could be a second meeting available to parents. Mr Arda explained that for teachers there is 'directed time' of 1265 hours in a year, which means that the academic year needs careful planning of the activities that staff undertake.
- Therefore, SchoolCloud is to be continued with Years 7-9. Typically, within these year groups, a class teacher has more than one class. Mr Arda explained he teaches three Year 9 classes for Computing. In a two-and-a-half hours evening, SchoolCloud will allow for 28 appointments. Appointments are prioritised based on the greatest need. Where students need to close progress gaps, the teachers book appointments with those parents, before the bookings are generally available for every parent to arrange.
- Nathalie Orlandi said that some meetings are short and would benefit from having more time, a point agreed with by Silvia Murray.
- Silvia Murray said it would be good for Year 7 to meet teachers. Mr Arda explained that the college recognises the value of meeting parents at this stage. He had run a parent and child evening attended by 61 parents about learning and thinking skills.
- Aidan Keightley felt that the 5 minutes meetings worked well to provide the focus on areas of development for students. He thought good points could be shared by email. Mr Arda reminded the group about the reporting process.
- Rita Loggali stated time is short though covers the main points. She expressed concerns about missing appointments and to have some follow up and having feedback in written form. She also did not understand how the grading system works. Mr Arda reminded parents that the College sends reports twice a year with a 'traffic light' system of red (below target), amber (within one grade) and green (on target). There is an additional blue for above target grade performance. This is shown on the reports.
- Hannatu Maikano agreed with Aidan Keightley that the 5 minutes appointments concentrating on students' weaknesses was good.
- Darren Koh reflected that SchoolCloud provides an efficient and focused conversation about progress.
- Parents were in favour of Years 10 and 11 being face-to-face meetings.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to send out a reminder message to parents of students in year groups where they have not yet had their parent evenings.

3. Uniform

- Changes made to uniform earlier in the academic have appeared positive and have responded to student voice feedback. For example, girls have had the opportunity to wear trousers as part of the uniform.
- One parent asked about the changes to blazers and shirts as it seemed that uniform favoured the boys.
- In the ensuing discussion, other parents explained that boys have the option of a jumper instead of the cardigan as girls have the option for trousers. The jumper could be worn by any gender.
- Silvia Murray explained in some respects that the jumpers returned to a previous time when they were part of the St Michael's uniform.
- Thanks to Marcin's son, the college now has a spreadsheet of stock as spares or to sell.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to liaise with Simona Bartocci Fletcher (absent today) about developing the selling/use of uniform.



4. Friends of St Michael's

- Mr Arda explained that the first principle of the group is to improve parental engagement and that this group provides important feedback for this purpose.
- The college recognises the impact that parents can have and would like a group of committed individuals to concentrate upon fundraising activities. The activities would have to be within the college ethos.
- Mr Arda stated that there were immediate opportunities for fundraising through the Parent Showcase event on Thursday 6th July. In the immediate future, the Year 9 Options Evening, on Tuesday 25th April, would benefit from a parent-run refreshments stall to include refreshments and drinks.
- Aidan Keightley posed what a "good" friends organisation looks like which may be worth exploring further.
- Erika Collins shared her experiences of the parent group she volunteers with at St John's. There are six active parents. They have set up a bank account that is separate entirely from the school. When the school requires funding for an aspect of improvement, the school approaches the parent group for funds. The account can only transfer funds if two of the group make the withdrawal. She highlighted that prizes for a raffle could be gained through parents with connections such as food, cinema vouchers, etc. Silvia Murray suggested that further collaboration could be through links with the Church.
- Rita Loggali asked if there could be an International evening and suggested that funding could be used for clubs with specialised extra-curricular activities. This could take place in time as the group establishes itself.
- Erika Collins added that the use of a WhatsApp group was a good way for parents to communicate with each other. She and Aidan Keightley WhatsApp group / contact voluntary group and will begin planning towards the setup of the group.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to contact the Parent Focus Group and volunteers to initiate Friends of St Michael's Group.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to liaise with Erika Collins about Year 9 Options Evening refreshments arrangements.
- **Action:** Next meeting to consider what a "Good" Friends of St Michael's Group looks like.

AOB

- No other items were raised.

Minutes to be sent via EduLink