

Notes from Parent Council Meeting - 31/1/17

1. Homework

Mr Hearne presented data concerning the amount of Homework being set and the results of a parent survey (attached). Although there has been a marked increase in the amount being set, the group agreed that there were still inconsistencies both with quantity and quality. Questions were also asked relating to the usefulness of the 'challenge/extension' homework and generic pc based programmes (MyMaths).

One action to be taken to SLT was to consider where homework is completed (in books, on paper etc.) and parental and student access to exercise books at home. Many subjects do not allow students to take books home, for fear of them not returning, so homework is often completed on paper. Most parents felt strongly that they would like to see the homework being completed in a book, either their normal exercise book or a dedicated homework book.

It was agreed that the group would continue to look at homework in further meetings.

2. Assessment and Marking

Mrs Llewellyn gave a PowerPoint presentation on SIR (strength, Improvement, Response) marking used in the school. She explained that the policy has recently been changed as this was also inconsistently applied, particularly regarding the Response element given by students. The change involves the S and I being written on blue stickers and the student responses planned as part of a SIR lesson (or substantial part of a lesson). The expectation will be that less SIR marking is carried out but it will be of a higher quality and more substantial.

Parental concern once again was around how they would see this happening if books do not come home (see above).

3. Future Meetings; timings and topics

It was decided that the meetings should not be set on one specific day and start slightly later. They will happen each half term and be advertised in the newsletter. A dedicated email address will be set up for the council and a section of the website will be given to the Parent Council for notes and presentation documents.

It was agreed that parents would send in ideas for the next meeting via the new email address.