

Minutes of Parents' Forum Tuesday 14th July.

Chair: Dave Wood-Griffiths

Minute Taker: Sarah Shortt.

Speaker: Glyn Whiteford, Head Teacher.

Mr Whiteford attended this meeting to update parents and carers on progress in the school since the last forum in June. He advised that the school has continued its plans and preparations for the next Ofsted HMI Monitoring visit, which is expected in November.

- The school is now fully staffed and the timetable and curriculum for September 09 are being finalised.
- Groups of underachievers in Years 9 and 10 have been identified and intervention programmes will be put in place in Sept 09, including the provision of one-to-one tuition for some students. This will also include some underachieving students in Key Stage 3.
- There will be a new procedure for homework (Extended Learning) with effect from September, with 6 week schedules of set homework.
- The new tutor periods come into effect in September, and one of the tutors' duties will be to monitor the students' homework. The importance of this as well as quality marking has been emphasised.
- New Schemes of Work are being introduced to the curriculum to include more pace and challenge to lessons.
- Mr Whiteford advised that there was a comprehensive scheme of buildings works planned for the summer.

Parents had voiced concerns over the conditions of the school buildings at previous meetings, and had requested an update from governors on how much Capital Funding had been spent on the buildings over the year.

- A report from the Finance & Business Manager was delivered showing the following spending on premises for 2008/2009: £47,583 on refurbishment of toilet blocks, £8,903 on safety film for windows, £9,478 on refurbishment of classrooms, £11,629 on lighting upgrades, £14,963 on air conditioning and £8,248 on Health & Safety related improvements.
- For the year 2009/10 the planned capital expenditure includes £76k on refurbishment of more toilet blocks, £70k for canopies for the new lunch-time areas and outside the canteen, £20k on Health & Safety improvements, £25k on classroom refurbishments, and £10k on grounds work.
- There is also a new sixth form block in place for September 2009.

The next point for discussion was the forthcoming meeting in September with two members of West Berkshire Local Authority who have been invited to discuss the authority's plans for the school buildings in the future. Questions were discussed and it was agreed to ask the following of the speakers:

- What has happened to the plans and the money put aside for the Tilehurst Learning Campus?
- How does West Berks council plan to serve this community in the future?
- What is West Berks future vision for the school?
- What is West Berkshire's plan for educating our students over the next 10-15 years?