

# Parent Forum

## Minutes from the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Present

Gary & Amanda Mayhew – Parents  
Lisa Green – Parent  
Lynne Rosier – Carer  
Christine Weaver – Parent  
Richard Warne – Parent  
Adrienne Martin – Parent  
Sharon Bremner – Family Liaison Officer  
Adrian Mount - Head Teacher

### Apologies:

Kerry Smith – Parent

	<p>Sharon reminded parents that everybody has a voice and should be allowed to be heard and make comments in an environment that is comfortable and welcoming. (Golden Rules!)</p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were read out and each point was discussed:</p>
1.	<p><b>School Playgrounds:</b></p> <p>Adrian spoke about the changes to the playground project. Things have moved on from the information shared at the last's Parent Forum meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 shared by Jeremy Edwards Deputy Head Teacher.</p> <p>It now may not be possible to start phase one of the playground as was hoped in August due to planning permission.</p> <p>We have however identified a company we will be using and, once permission is granted we will be ready to go. We hope this won't impact too much on pupils and hope that it won't run into the new term, but, if it does we will ensure that the area is safe.</p>
2.	<p><b>Fencing:</b></p> <p>At May's meeting the parents voiced their concern about the fencing at the bottom of the school. These concerns were taken to the Senior Leadership Team. It was agreed to fund the fencing. Jeremy (Deputy Head Teacher) shared at the meeting in June, that this will be done when Phase one of the playground project has been completed.</p> <p>With the changes to the Playground Project, this will also be held back.</p> <p><b>School facilities:</b></p> <p>Hydrotherapy Pool update. Some students have this month been enjoying the benefits that hydrotherapy can offer.</p>

	<p>Staff have been trained on how to use the facilities to provide better involvement for the students.</p> <p>Maintenance staff have been instructed in managing the chemicals needed to keep the water safe and clean for users.</p> <p>All staff involved in the pool have been trained to evacuate a student in an emergency.</p> <p>Staff have been training in pool side Evacuation, including the admin team.</p> <p>Referrals have been put forward for some students. Full programme to be running from September.</p> <p><b>Swimming lessons</b></p> <p>A parent pointed out that her son has never been swimming with the school, Students through their department get the opportunity to go swimming at Upton Pool. It works on the same principal as Music therapy, and Horse Riding.</p>
3.	<p><b>Questions asked: 15<sup>th</sup> June. Cycling Club:</b></p> <p>The question has been put the secondary department on holding a lunch time cycling club. It was agreed to see what the school council think about this idea from the parents.</p> <p><b>School Uniform Harts down Students:</b></p> <p>It was discussed that the school blazer is changing at Hartsdown. This is likely to cause an expense for some parents who have children at both sites.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Sharon to make enquiries about the situation.  <i>Hartsdown will provide Vouchers. These cover the cost of a blazer, tie, skirt or trousers. The rest of the uniform needs to be bought by the parents i.e. Black school shoes, white shirts, black V neck jumper.</i></p> <p><b>Planning Permission for Football Pitches.</b></p> <p>Planning application has gone in for two full size football pitches. The proposed site for this new development will be on the stretch of land at the back of the school; Sharon explained that the farmer who lives to the side of the school has no objections to a horticulture area, Polly Tunnels or a Forest school but he is not happy about the thought of the football pitches. He was worried about noise disturbance, and extra traffic. The school is looking to rent out these facilities to bring in extra income into the school.</p> <p><b>Planning Permission for permanent residential traveller site</b></p> <p>An application has been submitted to Thanet District Council to build a permanent residential traveller site at Little Newlands Piggery, in Ramsgate. The application is asking for permission to be built on land near Forelands Fields School. The application is for two gypsy pitches with two caravans on each pitch as well as an ancillary dayroom.</p> <p>Parent shared their disapproval for the sites location. They all agreed that it would be too close to The Foreland Field School.</p> <p>Adrian Mount Head Teacher informed the parents that he has sent a letter of objection to the council.</p>

	<p><b>School Nursing</b> School Nursing service are meeting in the month of July to discuss the needs of pupils (audit tool NHS Pupil Need) They will see what support The Foreland Field School needs and what they can offer.</p>
4.	<p><b>Update from HT:</b> Adrian HT said how he wants parents to feel that they are part of the school community. He said that as many ways as possible he would like parents to join in the school activities. So far parents have been invited in to dine with their child, have a picnic at school, parent Coffee mornings, the Grand opening day, Forelandbury (see below) school plays and school assembly.</p> <p><b>Forelandbury:</b> All students from Garlinge and Hartsdown will be at Foreland Fields School for the annual festival. Last week of term. Parents have been invited to attend the Forelandbury Festival on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July for the Greyhound Buskers and special guest 'The Ukulele Band'</p> <p><b>The Grand Opening</b> Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July will be the date of the Grand Opening. Tea cup rides, coconut shy, magician, stocks? And much more. The only charge on the day will be for Ice Creams and Raffle tickets.</p> <p><b>School Uniform:</b> Uniform for Key Stage 3 &amp; 4 from September or any student moving into year 10 to stay in school uniform until year 11. Current students already in non-school uniform can choose.</p> <p><b>Class List for next year:</b> Adrian said it has been an unprecedented year for getting new referrals coming into school. He is having to turn some students away. The class sizes are increasing, some classes may grow up to 8, 9 or 10 pupils in lower school, more in upper school. We have on roll at the moment 193 students for September. One parent said she has not heard what class her son will be in next year.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Sharon to ask on behalf of parent as all letters have now gone out about any changes that may affect students next year.</p>
5.	<p><b>Parents comments:</b></p> <p><b>School Dinners</b> A parent would like his son to be able to order and pay for his school meals. It was agreed that Sharon the FLO speak to the school Class team and office and organise this for September. It was explained that students get a choice every day.</p>

	<p><b>Travel arrangements to and from school</b>  A parent is cycling to and from school with his son. The hope is that he will eventually be able to let him do this journey himself. The dad is having trouble coming to terms with the letting go part of this plan. Apparently there will be a new crossing between Dane Court and Bromstone school. This may make it easier to get across this busy road.  Sharon shared that the Number 8 bus runs along Pyson’s Road. Lots of parents have been asking.</p> <p><b>Secondary Sixth form entry Door</b>  A parent shared her concern that sometimes this door appears to be left unattended or open.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Sharon to speak to Paula DHT upper school.  This door is used as an entry and exit for the upper school students. When student are entering or leaving the building it is always supervised. Students cannot enter the connecting corridor without assistance from a member of staff. There is a security door.  Other times the door is open for the kitchen staff, deliveries, and the use of the cleaners and site staff.</p>
6.	<p><b>Social Media</b>  Sharon reminded parents that photographs from school events should not be put onto social media sites. Even if it is a closed group. Recent sports day event raised concern about photographs. We do not have permission for some students to be photographed for different reasons. They could still be identified in the background. It was also pointed out that some people do not like to have their photograph taken and nobody ever thinks to asks the staff if they can have their photo taken. Some staff are not on social media and have been horrified to learn that their face has appeared on Face Book with a student.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Next meeting: TBC</b>  It has been suggested, that not all parents, who would like to attend the Parent Forum are able to, because of work commitments. It was agreed to alternated the times of the meetings. The next meeting will take place in the Morning 9-10am</p>