



## Parent/Carer Voice Meeting

Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 6.30pm

### **1. Careers Education in KS3 and KS4 – questions, feedback and suggestions for development.**

We are looking to develop links to careers education further across all year groups. A range of year group parents/carers are at the meeting to explore our offer.

The Provider Access Policy was explained and regarding careers education, there is a term by term outlined of what is provided for year groups.

Student reception (links to taking responsibility etc.) has already been extended to Year 7.

Year 8 – Supporting reception as a leader, assemblies and with outside agencies or staff that link to careers.

Year 9 – Different providers have come in to give presentations to students in the library. Examples include; farming, gaming, NHS etc. PSHE covers careers. Options are chosen with links to careers.

KS4 – There is an event for students to look at post 16 courses and pathways.

Parent - What else is there for KS3?

Parent - Does anyone come in from colleges regarding the types of course, this could help at an earlier stage?

Mr Li-Rocchi – Not at KS3 but they do at KS4. Space is a problem. More than one night could be booked if these providers were available.

**Action** – Mr Li-Rocchi to speak to Miss Barker regarding the above and whether it is possible.

Parent - What about apprenticeships?

Mr Li-Rocchi – In KS4 this is discussed at the post 16 evening and students can explore apprenticeships at a showground event they are taken to (Norfolk Skills & Careers Festival). At the Year 10 GCSE Information Evening, work experience is talked about. Self-generated placements are organised by a certain date. Health and Safety checks are carried out by our provider. Students can have placements out of Norfolk.

Careers workshops/professionals come into school and can also lead assemblies.

There is a skills and careers festival trip where e.g. the police and NHS professionals, etc. are there. There are also simulators and is very hands on.

PSHE includes careers, money and finance.

There are tasters at local colleges; East Norfolk Sixth form is the most popular, Sir John Leman and Easton College trips have also taken place.

During Work Experience placements during the week as many students as possible are visited by staff members from the Wednesday onwards. Where it is not possible for students to be on placements they go into departments, e.g. Science, Site Team, Admin, etc.

Year 11 all have one to one meetings with our careers advisor. Some students are seen in Year 10 or more than once. The advisor is in school once a week. Students give their interests careers wise and are signposted in the right directions e.g. courses to follow.

Some students are clear with what they want to do but are not sure where to look to progress this. The careers advisor would help with this. Beacon East are the provider we use.

Post 16 Evening – information on college open days are shared with students and parents/carers.

**Action** – College/6<sup>th</sup> form induction and information days to be shared with parents/carers and students as early as possible.

Mock Interview Day – Students write a CV and covering letter and this has to be submitted by a deadline. People come into school as interviewers and would receive the CVs and letters to ask questions. After the interviews students get feedback straight away. These take place in November so can assist with preparation for college interviews.

Parent - When we went to Norwich City College they said they wanted applications in August before Year 11. Is there any way post 16 applications preparation could go in in the summer term?

Mr Li-Rocchi stated that the deadline for post 16 applications is by Christmas/January.

Parent - This was in the creative areas

**Action** – Mr Li-Rocchi to speak to Miss Field/Miss Barker to explore this further.

Parent – The post 16 evening is a good presentation. It would be helpful for families to have these sessions before going to the stalls so they are more prepared regarding what questions to ask colleges, 6<sup>th</sup> forms etc.

**Action** – Mr Li-Rocchi to arrange for this to be done earlier if this is possible.

## **2. Canteen Food – feedback on choices/menus**

Mr Li-Rocchi - the canteen is very busy – which is a good sign! There is a three week rotation so there variety. There is a spend limit of £5.00 unless a parent/carer specifies otherwise, it can be less but not more.

Parent feedback - No issue with the spend limit

Currently – a meal deal is £2.50 which includes a hot main and desert, pasta pot and desert. A drink is not included but can buy a carton instead of a desert. Fruit is also available.

Parent - It is a varied menu?

Parent - Where is the menu advertised?

The menu is advertised outside and in the canteen. Most students are in every day. There is a pasta station every day apart from a Friday. Mr Li-Rocchi asked parents/carers if there is anything not on the menu they would like on there.

Parent - Could students just have a sandwich?

Yes, sandwiches and baguettes are provided and can be preordered. Students go to the canteen on a daily rota to avoid huge queues and all know when to go. If they are in last pre-ordering may be best. They can order at break time.

Parent feedback - 5 years ago was disappointed with the food, but it is great now.

The provider was changed due to the quality of ingredients/food and the level of staffing. The new company do things far better. Faye takes things seriously and really knows the students.

Parent feedback to Faye – pleased with canteen offer, we like the new menu.

### **3. Mobile Phones and the school approach – key details and feedback**

Mr Li-Rocchi - There has been new guidance for schools from the Government. Most schools have a mobile phone policy/approach. The Government gave different options to follow. The Hobart approach – we are semi-rural with some students walking to and from bus, therefore a blanket ban would be difficult and remove a way of keeping safe. The phones should not be seen or heard in school and should be kept in blazer pockets or bags. If they are seen or heard they will be confiscated and given to reception where a spreadsheet record is kept. 1 confiscation in a half term – the student can pick up the phone at the end of the day. 2 or more in a half term - a family member to collect. This wipes clean every half term though conversations would be had if this was a regular occurrence.

If a phone was used inappropriately a stronger sanction would take place, e.g. 1 day in IEU.

There is no intention to make things more military. Before Covid more phones were handed in but post Covid it is a lot less.

Parent - what were the Government recommendations?

- a. Complete ban
- b. Storage/hand in at school
- c. Never seen/heard

Parent feedback:

- Hobart approach is very reasonable. Son asked permission to call mum which was very helpful.
- Really like the approach. Did not like it at another school where phones were allowed out between lessons. The practicality of having a phone is good.

Mr Li-Rocchi - It is good to see students in the canteen chatting and enjoying their food rather than mobiles 'taking over'.

Parent - There was a concern in a lesson where a scuffle broke out and it was filmed.

Mr Li-Rocchi - There was a supply staff member taking the lesson – appropriate actions were taken. My team would not have allowed this to happen. Sanctions were issued and families contacted.

Parent - Having a blanket ban would mean some students could have two phones. Filming in toilets is a problem.

Mr Li-Rocchi - We need to have open plan toilets with ceiling to floor cubicle doors so students can still have privacy and therefore would make it more difficult for students to use their phones with their friends. This is being looked at but will be very expensive. Staff do conduct toilet checks.

Parent - Another school had cameras in toilets

Hobart does have cameras in toilets.

Parent – Some students are too scared to go into the toilets

Mr Li-Rocchi - Cameras are fine to a certain extent, but obviously cannot be in cubicles or face urinals. Some schools lock the toilets during lesson times but I am uncomfortable with that. Toilet passes are available to students who need them.

Parent - Students are scared to go in toilets as younger toilets are being mended

Mr Li-Rocchi - Quotes for toilet developments = it will cost a lot of money. An application must be put to the trust central fund to secure investment for them to be updated.

Parent - Would it be better to enforce students to hand their phones into reception?

Mr Li-Rocchi - The practicality of this would be a problem. Most students are very good at not using them.

Parent - As this is happening at break and lunchtimes, could the student leaders not help?

Mr Li-Rocchi - This could be put to student leaders as patrols would be useful.

**Action** – Student Leader patrols to be put to student voice through Mrs Wilkinson.

Mr Li-Rocchi - Some students do not want to give the names of students involved to members of staff.

Teachers can allow students to use their phones as part of a lesson, but this is rare.

Parent - Mobile phones used in changing rooms is a problem I have raised before. Posters have been put up but photos are still being taken and put on social media, this is a big concern.

Mr Li-Rocchi - To look at how the approach has been developed and feedback to the PE department.

Parent - Are phones being handed in before PE into a safety box (previously discussed)?

**Action** – Mr Li-Rocchi check the above with the PE department. If this is not happening there will be further discussions.

Parent - Training would be useful with regards to filming of other people and the legality of this, etc. Steps could be made so that the students understand and how damaging this can be for the other person. It can impact on other people's lives.

Mr Li-Rocchi - This is taught in PSHE and assemblies, but does need to be fed back to students more regularly.

Parent - Could the students be targeted and police brought in to talk to the students?

Mr Li-Rocchi - They do have a presentation by the police but they do try to alternate each year. This is only done once a year. Sometimes with the police they come into the school after an incident has happened and then do more intense work.

**Action** – More regular reminders to be calendared in.

Parent - Year 7 phones are being used in class

Mr Li-Rocchi - Is this with cover teachers or actual teachers?

Parent - This is discreet usage

Mr Li-Rocchi - Where there is staff absence, we only have a small cover supervisor team and use agency cover. Sometimes we get people who we do not invite back, e.g. not vigilant enough or approach to dealing with an issue is not as we would expect. We will say why we do not want them back and report them to the agency/Norfolk County Council if appropriate.

Parent - Students have asked why they have not had a student voice and why the parents/carers are having one and not them.

Mr Li-Rocchi - Students have had a survey recently which were completed in ICT lessons. There were free text boxes as well as multiple choice. These were completed on Microsoft forms. There were 135 responses from Year 7s.

Mrs Wilkinson has different student voice meetings on different days.

**Action** – Mr Li-Rocchi to speak to Mrs Wilkinson regarding the student voice meetings.