

## Parent/Carer Voice Meeting

Wednesday 22 January 2025 – 7.00pm

### 1. Online Safety – Newsletter feedback and key points you would like us to consider

#### Notes:

Mr Li-Rocchi - Online Safety Newsletter is issued monthly, which provides updates on topics such as social media, changes to platforms, etc. We can send feedback to the publisher.

Parents/Carers were asked for anything they liked about the newsletter and any improvements that might be made. The following feedback was forthcoming:

#### Likes

- Aspects of online issues are confusing. The newsletter is useful and helps us to think about how to put safeguards in place. It shows things that parents/carers are not always aware of.
- Do not always look at it, but it is good to know it is there if needed.
- It is not something I am knowledgeable about so anything like this is useful.
- The links are good.
- Can clearly see which areas are relevant.
- The information on side bars is useful.
- It is well laid out and it is clear what you are reading about.

#### Improvements

- N/A

#### What can the school do / provide regarding online safety?

- Specific advice and guidance on WhatsApp could be sent round.
- Roblox information as there are links to county lines.
- Phishing – the latest information would be handy and good for the children to recognise what to look for.

Mr Li-Rocchi – Fake emails are sent to staff as a security check. It may be good for students to have this if we could make it work. Would they fall for it? It would be interesting to know.

**ACTION** - Mr Li-Rocchi to explore the sending of these emails with the IT team – it would be good if they could go out before the assemblies.

- Point by parent - Concerned where social media is heading. There are a lot of filters which are being changed so unsuitable content is being accessed. It may be worth highlighting this to students/parents/carers.

Mr Li-Rocchi – Andrew Tate's posts are a concern. Some students see him as a role model.

**ACTION** - Mr Li-Rocchi to ask Mrs Wilkinson if this could be included in the assemblies.

- Point by parent - Concerns regarding understanding of consent - it is still not getting through. Words are being used in a flippant way, e.g. "rape" - students need to know "no means no!"

### 2. Key Stage 3 Careers Fair – Support request and proposal feedback

Mr Li-Rocchi - KS4 students have different employers, colleges, etc come into school and are taken to the Norfolk Showground for a Careers Fair. Workshop sessions also take place (year 9). Would it be beneficial for KS3 to have further careers opportunities? Miss Barker is looking into this.

- Parent feedback - Definitely a good idea, especially with options coming up for Year 9s. Some children do not know what they want to do, and it would be good to explore ideas.

Mr Li-Rocchi – What would a careers fair look like for KS3 students look like? Would parents/carers be present or would this take place during the school day? Feedback to these questions:

- Some parents/carers may swerve the child into what they want – therefore during the school day may be better.
- Less formal during the day and with parents/carers visiting in the evening.
- Been to a lot of events and year 9 students very rarely talk to you. It would be nice to have parents/carers there as they encourage and support their child. We need to think of ways to encourage interaction. The library workshops last year were very good as titles were given to the children who were then encouraged to sign up to what they were interested in and were therefore engaged more during the talks.

Mr Li-Rocchi – Maybe Period 5 could be a student event which then goes into the afternoon / evening with parents/carers. We would need to see if this could happen. **ACTION – options to be explored by Hobart school leaders.**

Mr Li-Rocchi then asked if anyone had any connections to representatives of companies which could come into school.

- Oil Company – they are currently exploring “carbon capture” so there are environmental elements to this area.
- My child went to a college which included a taster of what they do in lessons etc.

Mr Li-Rocchi – Hobart does visit East Norfolk Sixth Form College, Sir John Leman High School, etc.

These providers and more do attend the post 16 evening, which includes apprenticeships, sixth forms from the private sector, etc.

- Parent feedback - Treasure hunt type activity could be organised for the students which encourage students to go to different stalls, e.g. tell me three facts on oil consumption. Something to get them to have conversation and find out interesting facts. **ACTION – Treasure hunt activity to be developed for future career fair style events.**

### 3. Ofsted Proposed Changes – Key Points/Q&A (article provided – link)

Mr Li-Rocchi – Ofsted is in consultation over changes to inspections and reports issued. Use of single word judgements is seen as adding pressure on school leaders, and there was the tragic situation of a headteacher (Ruth Perry) committing suicide. Ofsted is moving towards more judgement categories, but not necessarily single words. Colour coding for different aspects being inspected is one idea that has been mentioned. The old ‘four areas’ of judgement and one overall judgement would be replaced, which will not be so ‘brutal’, but schools will obviously still be judged, even if categories are different.

Hobart was visited by Ofsted in 2023; therefore, the report card could be in place when we are next visited. Schools, parents/carers and students will be consulted by Ofsted once the report card is proposed.

Points were raised, some linked to an article provided on the possible Ofsted changes.

- Governors are interviewed by Ofsted at present – so not sure this is a change.
- Comments in Hobart’s last Ofsted report – repeat offenders (suspensions) are mentioned which are out of the school’s control. Cannot turn a child around without the parents/carers support.

Mr Li-Rocchi – We can sometimes provide a fresh start for challenging students. If there are more schools in the trust it can be easier to organise this. The Ofsted proposals include separation of safeguarding from the leadership and management ‘category’. There may be separate safeguarding visits. Will Ofsted have the capacity for this.

The discussion switched to support for students in school and funding. Nationally, £2.2 billion has been allocated to schools with £1 billion of this towards SEND provision. It appears this will only maintain the status quo for SEND and will only help Local Authorities to maintain current levels.

There are many specialist SEN places needed and there are not enough. In two years, the numbers of places needed will likely increase.

Mr Li-Rocchi – With most inspections safeguarding goes well. SEND is being recognised as the area needs more focus. For example, there can be delays in diagnosis for SEND – this can mean some young people only get further support later in their schooling.

Mr Li-Rocchi – increasing evidence that females mask some needs so they only become evident when they are older.

Multi Academy Trust (MAT) inspections - Trusts will be inspected as a whole. This currently does not happen.

When we are next inspected it will be different.

Mr Li-Rocchi is happier with having a wider variety of different inspection categories, as some parents/carers just look at the headlines. More categories should enable schools to show what they are doing well in specific areas. The following points / questions were raised by parents/carers:

- Is possible to go from outstanding to requires improvement? Yes – this is possible.
- Each day is different in school, so Ofsted can depend on the day they visit.

In some ways, Mr Li-Rocchi would like Ofsted in school for a longer period to see more rather than just getting a snapshot.

#### **4. The Schools Bill – Q&A/Feedback including Uniform Changes (article provided – link)**

Points were raised and discussed using an article focused on the Schools Bill.

- Instructors work in school who do not have qualified teacher status (QTS) but do a very good job in leading lessons. There is some confusion in the article regarding teachers without QTS.
- National Curriculum having to be followed – this could take a time to change for some schools / academies. Academies do not have to follow the National Curriculum (NC). Hobart does follow the NC.

Mr Li-Rocchi – If an Ofsted Inspection has gone poorly another Multi Academy Trust can be instructed to take over a school. The Schools Bill suggests that the Local Authority can be involved and run schools again in these situations.

Mr Li-Rocchi – Sits on a Fair Access Panel (FAP) where difficult to place children are discussed and placed in schools. The Bill states Councils will be able to direct academies to admit a child.

Home Education crackdown. Some parents/carers will need consent from their local Council to home educate their child.

- Question from parents / carers - If someone has always been home educated, would the school know?

Mr Li-Rocchi – No, not if a child had been home educated throughout their schooling. For children in and out of school or leaving high school for home ed - then yes.

In the bill, if there are safeguarding concerns, then home education would not be allowed.

Three branded items of school uniform. Hobart leaders will look at this in the spring and summer and there will be a consultation with families. At present the tie, blazer, skirt and PE uniform, shorts, polo shirt. There are up to 5 or 6 at Hobart.

Mr Li-Rocchi - Which piece of uniform should Hobart remove? Parent / carer feedback:

- Girls still roll up skirts even if they are branded.
- PE Skorts are very short.
- New shorts do not have a logo.
- The school uniform looks very smart and therefore it would be sad to see it go.

Mr Li-Rocchi – there are a few challenges with the Hobart uniform e.g. shirts are worn untucked by some / the skirt length for some. Parent / carer feedback:

- It looks different to other schools – this is a positive.

Mr Li-Rocchi – The blazer identifies us as a school.

- It is important when students go out that they are identified as Hobart through the logo.

Parents / carers would like to keep: PE top, PE hoody (although this is optional for GCSE students), the blazer and tie.

**ACTION - Mr Li-Rocchi to take this feedback to the Senior Leadership Team.**

Feedback and information from one parent:

- Son is now working at the Maids Head Hotel. They have a charity fund where they will donate raffle prizes. To supply the email address.
- Thank you to Hobart regarding a survey which was sent out. There were 550 replies which was used to build a social media campaign.