

Felsted Parents' Group Minutes

Preceded by House Meetings (items raised at these meetings will be brought forward by the respective HM to their next meeting)

7.00-8.30pm, Tuesday 27 September 2022
Common Room Dining Room

1. Attendance

Gepp's (Yr9,10,11,13)
Mont's (Yr9,10,11,12)
Deacon's (Yr11)
Thorne (Yr12)

Stock's (Yr9,10,12)
Elwyn's (Yr11)
Manor (Yr10,12)

Windsor's (Yr13)
Follyfield (Yr9,10,12)
Garnetts (Yr13)

2. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a true record of the meeting, and can be found on the website.

Matters arising

- *EPQ: request publication of timelines, and communication with pupils about next steps by LKS.* Information has been shared, although the timeline for this year will be brought forward to ensure that parents are better informed about the process, and so able to support their sons/daughters if necessary.
- *Second Hand Uniform shop: request for details of storage, drop off, and sales.* Storage was put in place over summer, and second hand shop has been operating successfully, although need to share date for collection of senior uniform and message to go out to all parents once details are confirmed.
 - A physical 'drop-box' outside the shop is planned but until that is in place parents are asked to drop donations at the shop when it is open on **Wednesdays between 2:30 and 4:30pm.**
- *Pupil survey - publish results in newsletter and follow up survey in March 2023.* Results published. Follow up will take place.
- *International trips - share details.* This has been done via the Calendar, but could now also be shared in the Newsletter
- *Felsted Ball - could finish times be pushed back?* Yes, should be possible.
- *Rename Friends of Felsted Prep.* Being looked at via the AGM (but note that it is a registered charity, so would have to go through a formal process in order to change).

- *Marking, request for sharing of policy and further update.* Mrs Stefanini will be invited to the next meeting, to update on policy (assessment and tracking) and update on approach, which will also be shared in the newsletter.
- *6th form induction to include parents.* This did happen and was welcomed by those who had been involved.

3. Review of start of term (CJT)

Positive feedback from parents as regards the start of term arrangements (talks etc), especially good arrangements for new parents. Mont's parents suggest badges for the parents on arrival, which can be done for next year. There might be some need to adjust the actual timings to make it work more smoothly, but the general view was positive.

A nice touch in one house saw beds made up in advance for the pupils who were starting, with their own bedding. **Action: See if this can be done for all houses next year** (In contrast at least one house had a negative experience with the handover from LEAP, and again Round Square conference - clearly the latter is a one off, but need to look into LEAP timings)

A lot of feedback from parents as regards the apparent disparity between the provision for boys and girls pre-season, and other sports. **Action: Ask CSK to look at ensuring that there is appropriate (and equitable) provision available**

4. Felsted Development (Kate Love)

Kate Love (Director of Development) introduced herself to the group, and outlined some of the changes that she wishes to bring to her department, especially in terms of engaging more with parents (both current and former), and also gave some details of plans for the future such as a telethon (using young OFs as trained callers) and a Giving Day, in which different houses might 'compete' with one another.

She also confirmed that in future unrestricted funds raised by the school would be disbursed through a disbursement committee (meeting termly) which would include senior staff, parent and pupil representation - to ensure we fund projects delivering best value as broadly as we can.

She also thanked the Friends of Felsted for their great support of the school - and for their recent contribution towards bursary funds. Looking forward to working closely with them in future.

Action: anyone who would like to work with Kate, or hear more about her plans, should contact her directly on cnl@felsted.org

5. Felsted Strategy (CJT)

- (i) New Year's Resolution for sustainability

CJT outlined the six pillars of the new strategy: Aspirational Learning (supported by 21st century technology); Personal Development (including wellbeing and pastoral care); Boarding and Family ethos (with new Head of Boarding Francis Barrett leading on this area); Engagement with all communities (including partnership work); Globally active school (with every pupil able to engage with different cultures); Commitment to Environmental Sustainability (through a New Year's Resolution for the Felsted Community).

A question was asked as to how the success (or otherwise) of this would be measured. This will be a key part of delivery to the Governors, and is an aspect that is still being worked on.

Action: Policy document to be shared with Felsted Parents Group once completed.

6. Half term - Houses 'At Home' (GWSM)

Opportunity to meet tutors and house staff face-to-face in houses. Only problem is that working parents find it hard to attend on a Friday.

Provision for other parents who can't make the Friday would be desirable. Parents can of course at any time request to meet separately with their child's tutor.

Action: Details to be shared with parents as soon as possible

Action: This should include details of alternative arrangements

7. Speech Day 2023 proposals (GWSM)

Feedback was sought following the first proper Speech Day for a few years. The school is considering the following:

Proposal: garden party feel as everyone comes out of the marquee for a glass of something, a bite to eat, social time, watching sport on show. The Leavers' Ball would then take place in the marquee that evening.

There were different views expressed. Therefore, it was proposed to get wider feedback.

Action: School to speak to the U6 pupils in particular about moving the Ball onto the same night as Speech Day

Action: Run a newsletter 'poll' to get broader parental feedback on the suggestion

8. Prefects (GWSM)

For some time, the school has felt uncomfortable about some aspects of the appointment of prefects. The school has 'leadership' as an 'ideal' from Round Square, and believes that leadership is a learnt skill, in which all can be developed and show improvement.

There were some concerns that some appointments are 'inevitable'. This can be deflating to some. However, it is true that working hard to apply for something, but not getting it, is a reality of life, and not being a prefect does not mean that you cannot take on leadership.

The discussion covered a lot of ground, but without drawing any firm conclusions.

Action: School to continue to get feedback, and work on some possible models of leadership (in both prep and senior)

9. AOB - due to the discussion on prefects, there was no time for AOB. However, a few points were sent in after the meeting, and so are included below:

i) Christmas Outing

We are not doing the 'whole school' Christmas outings this year. We are currently talking to HMs to establish what each house might do, but it is unlikely to be in the final week of term, and will not involve sending the whole school into London.

ii) ISAMS

There have been some problems with ISAMs. We have been in contact with them, and very much hope that they have been (or are being) resolved at the moment. So, yes, there has been an ongoing issue, but we do hope that parents will see the benefit sooner rather than later.

iii) Activities - some lack of engagement

There are activities going ahead throughout the week, on each day. Where we have had a few issues is with ensuring that all pupils have a suitable programme to give them opportunities throughout the week. We are working hard to make this work more consistently currently.

iv) Felsted Newsletter: more detailed information for parents on upcoming events

We are talking to Marketing to see if this is something that we can achieve via the Newsletter. In the meantime, the calendar should provide most of this information, and HMs are being asked to send weekly communications in order to provide any 'key dates'.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 24th January 2023, 7.00pm for supper, with meeting 7.30 - 9.00pm

**CJT/GWSM
22.09.22**