



## **Parent Forum**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Mrs Lloyd, Mr Weller, Mrs Twigger & Mrs Nolan – members of the senior team

Apologies – Ms Swain

### **Main notes of the meeting:**

Welcome from Nigel Stephen and the format for the meeting. This forum started about 5 years ago.

The academy counsellors introduce themselves and their role within the school.

Mrs Lloyd makes introductions for the senior leadership team.

### **Highlights from Mrs Lloyd**

Growing in student numbers over the last 6 years. The 1<sup>st</sup> indications for September 2025 is at 149 students. There are 70 second choices. This secures the continued development and investment in school. When Mrs Lloyd first started at SWA, there were only 52 students in the Year 11 cohort.

Planning meeting pre-Christmas regarding the Stamford North development, for SWA we have at least £8m ear marked for development for the school. This further secures money which is in place for 11-16 and also post 16. The LA does not class a 6<sup>th</sup> form here at as a basic need as NCS provides this for local students, so it is hard to get funding for our own. However, this injection of money will kick start it for us.

A 3G pitch has been approved and something that we use for the community and school prospects.

### **Q. Plans for spending the money on?**

The money soon goes, £2m for the 2 science labs. The cost-effective way to use the money is to look at a new teaching block but there are a lot to think about. The LA are not keen on a primary school being located on our site, but we are still pursuing this.

### **Q. Mrs Lloyd planning on staying?**

No plans to leave. There is always succession planning. Supporting at GPU TC one day a week and Mr Weller takes the lead in her absence.



**Feedback from parent: Community ask what the leadership is like?**

It has been stable and makes such a difference.

**Q. With the housing development what will the PAN be?**

Currently 150 and perhaps go up to 180. This is led by the LA. This has been spoken about 5-6 years ago and now that has happened, we are still unsure about when these timescales will be in place.

You do not want to lose what you are as a school, you want to be ambitious, but we do not want to step too far away from where we are now and all staff know the students.

**Q. Will another secondary school be built in Stamford?**

No, if needs be they would be an extension to the school building here.

The group discuss the other planning in the area.

**Q. Thoughts on the Government regarding academies having less freedom?**

There are certain academies that do as they wish but ours is not one of those and very well structured. There is not much difference from when we are a LA school. We follow teachers pay & conditions and national curriculum.

Some schools adapt curriculums to specialise on areas, but that has not been helped with league tables and push kids through qualifications that they should not be.

**Q. New catering provider – any feedback.**

Queue and wait time. Fridays are always an issue. Suggestion from parents can they offer fish & chips Y7-9 on a Thursday & 10-11 on a Friday.

If we look at staggering lunch times, then it has implications on the timetable.

We have the open an outdoor grab'n'go hatch, but Fridays are always an issue.

Mrs Lloyd explains about revision session and rewards for year 11's which includes a chip shop trip on a Friday.

**Staffing updates:**

Mr Flint updates to parents.

Mrs Boyce maternity leave

Mrs Chester maternity leave



Maths interview this week

Building changes

Artwork on the walls and brightens up the school.

Outdoor gym installed plus additional pieces for our SEN students.

New toilet block in PE

All CCTV is in place

### **Q. Vaping & phones**

Vaping is impossible to manage. There are CCTV in the communal areas. If there is a smell then we can look it up, but it is a battle we will not win. If more than one student is in the toilet together, then they will get the sanction.

We know that it happens and police what we can.

**When students are asked to go on a phone during lesson to complete some work, is it possible for those who do not have one to be provided with a laptop.**

Yes, of course.

The grey area we have now is that the phones have the app with the timetable on it. So the rules have changed over time, the rule that we have in place to now, is that there is a place for them in lessons. But if they are misused then they will be confiscated.

### **Q.Apps – Tasimaoui**

Student has completed homework. There was Geography detentions given out however if there was a glitch as behaviour points have been given out unnecessarily.

We have moved over to a new MIS system – BROMCOM.

Since we have been doing chess and house challenges, and the students who we are catching on phones are less.

**Jolabokaflood – Feedback was really positive.**

The reading champion is going to take this on in a book club.

Jigsaw puzzles is a suggestion for students.

Uno is this terms house challenge.

This works really well in the vertical tutoring.

**Q. PE is an issue for some girls that are struggling. Promote PE for girls in school?**

Some of it comes down to the member of staff, she is really good and positive. Not just doing team sports but looking at others.

The gym is popular, and there is some about doing full contact rugby and the girls are not.

Look into this.

**Looking at mindfulness activities – Pilates etc.**

KS4 core PE are offered more activities. The issue in a small school is the staff on at any one lesson. This could be looked at for the younger students.

The staff must be comfortable teaching this.

**Q. PROM**

Paying for the ticket and hoodies. We will stagger the payments out for parents.

**Q. Uniform**

Move away from the badge on the blouse for girls and replace with a pin.

Suppliers in Stamford.

**Final comments from parents**

Positive for communication

Music lessons are a work in progress.