

Parents Forum Notes 23 March 2017

**S Fell (Headteacher), R Holland (Chair of Governors), M Hart (Governor), M Field (Governor),
M Green (Governor), M Boyle (Business Manager) plus 11 parents**

Restructuring Consultation

Mr Fell explained the proposal as set out in the letter sent to parents earlier this term.

Parents asked about school funding in the context of the proposed national funding formula and whether or not the amount of funding would increase. Mrs Boyle said that the school was in one of the lowest funded Local Authorities in the country - if the proposals were implemented, the school may lose further funding going forward. Therefore there was still uncertainty about the schools budget going forward.

Parents asked about the proposal to change from vertical tutor groups to a year based structure. Parents agreed that whilst they liked the idea of a vertical system, they were aware that in some form groups, there was little evidence of the students engaging in activities based on a vertical structure. Mr Fell outlined the advantages of a Year group system; for example it would be easier for a Year Leader to deal efficiently and effectively with incidents involving students from the same year group, rather than where they were spread across six houses.

Parents asked if the decision was made to change to Year Group form system, when this would be effective from. Mr Fell said that there were two possible times; after May half term to coincide with the rollover timetable or at the start of the new academic year in September.

Parents said that they liked the House system, with competitive activities such as sports day.

Parents suggested a possible solution might be to reduce the number of houses and still maintain the vertical system. Mr Fell said that all options were being explored within the consultation period.

Parents asked whether there would be any impact on 6th form options – Mr Fell said courses would continue to run, wherever there was sufficient demand from students to make the course viable.

Parents asked if there were any efficiencies to be gained by working more closely with feeder schools. Mr Fell said that the Governing Bodies of all of the schools in the Harlington pyramid were in very early stages of discussing this.

Uniform

Finally, parents were asked for their views about the current uniform. Parents said that they liked the formality of the uniform, including the blazers but could understand how difficult it would be to get all students to conform consistently to the requirements for standardised trousers and skirts. Parents thought that the idea of moving to a trouser/skirt with the logo embroidered on it, available through only one supplier would be a good idea to help with consistency, although they said that the price of these garments would have to be competitive.