



St. Anne's School

ALDERNEY

Parent Forum meeting Thursday 6th February 2025

Minutes: present - Wendy, Zoe, Jane, Beth, Debbie

Apologies – Petra, Rosie

- **Governors:** elections have been held for parent & staff governors and the outcomes were: Parent Governor – Rhys Jenkins; Staff Governor – Jo Allison. Wendy said that, because of our unique situation, our governing body is larger than most schools in Guernsey & we were informed that proportionally, we had the highest levels of interest in these positions across the Bailiwick.
- **School video:** this was released at the start of January and has had 340,000 views online. We are hopeful that this will attract new children & in the recent recruitment round for a Maths teacher, the school received 13 applications – which is much higher than previous recruitment rounds. The Guernsey Press news article did attract some negative comments from readers in Guernsey re: pupil to staff ratios. Wendy reported that there is still further money available to ‘boost’ the video on Facebook.
- **School Facebook page:** the school are aiming at 2-3 posts per week, otherwise it becomes unmanageable. Zoe reported that people were very positive about it.
- **Careers Fair:** this will take place on Thursday 20 February & so far, 21 employer participants have said they will attend & the school & Chamber of Commerce are waiting to hear back from a few more. The Careers Service will also be coming over from Guernsey. Last year, this was very popular with the pupils. This year, it will be open to pupils in the morning & members of the public between 4.30 – 7.30pm.
- **AOB:**
- Wendy informed us about the roll-out of 1-2-1 devices for children. The school has received 50 iPads for primary children in ‘child-proof’ cases and will receive keyboards & headphones soon. Y5 – Y11 will be allocated an individual Chromebook each, which they will not take home (albeit a pilot for this will be trialled with older pupils). Pupils will keep the same device from Y5 through to Y11. The present Y4 children will be sitting some of their GCSEs online & the school will be teaching pupils keyboarding skills (touch typing) using KAZ.
- Wendy & Ally Morgan have been working on an acceptable user agreement / policy in child – speak. This will be going home with children on Friday. The

agreement will include things like: not accessing unauthorised website, keeping the Chromebook charged. If pupils breach the policy, they will have a temporary ban. Guernsey have made it clear that this is a one-off investment for this equipment, so we have to look after these devices.

- Parent Forum: Wendy questioned whether it was useful & successful? Reporting that, of the Heads in Guernsey who Wendy had communicated with, only 1 school in 6 had a Parent Forum. The members agreed that it was useful & would like to continue – but perhaps we don't need a meeting every half term, especially if it is a shorter term. Members also thought that 4pm was a better start time for the meeting. Regarding the depleted membership of the Forum: Beth suggested promoting the group on the school's Facebook page.
- Other issues: Jane reported that a parent of a Y5/6 child was unhappy about the amount of screen time involved in homework (Lexia, Mathletics etc) & there is no real hand-written homework. There was a discussion re: Lexia (Zoe was positive, Jane less so). Wendy commented that Lexia is expensive & concerned that its impact on the school is not 'wide enough'. Our secondary English teacher reported that it has spurred her on to investigate other spelling resources & Wendy suggested that we hold a pupil voice exercise at the end of the trial. Jane also said that a parent had reported how pleased she was that Y4 are very different from last year (in a positive way) with their new teacher. Jane also enquired about the allocation of primary teachers next year & Wendy replied that this hasn't been fully decided yet. Jane also asked about the allocation of LSAs to classes & Wendy explained that they are allocated according to need rather than to a specific class.
- Senior girls' toilets: Wendy & Debbie explained the previous issues (of girls 'hiding' in the toilets rather than going outside at break times) and that the toilets are a pinch-point re: supervision. As the Junior girls' toilets have 5 cubicles (Seniors have 2), some Seniors have been given toilet passes for the Juniors' toilets if the queues are too long with the new '2 in, 2 out' system. Beth had also been asked by a parent whether Senior girls were allowed to access the toilets in lesson times? This is at the discretion of the teacher – but generally 'yes'. The 3 minute whistle system at the end of break and lunch for water and toilets was explained .
- Youth Games: Jane wanted to know whether it is obligatory for pupils to go? Wendy confirmed that, although we encourage pupils to take part in this event, it is not compulsory. There was also a query whether parents could have been informed about this event before pupils were spoken to about it. Wendy said that last time there was representative from Guernsey who held an assembly about it for parents. **Wendy will ensure there is a link put on the school's Facebook page.**
- There was also a discussion re: Ilona wanting to involve pupils in a drama – based event but this will take place out of school hours.