

Our Ref: JMPH/yc

17th November 2015

To: Members of the Liaison Committee
Of the School Parents' Association

Dear Parents



I have pleasure in enclosing the Agenda for the Meeting of the Liaison Committee of the School Parents' Association, to be held on Thursday 19th November in Cookes Room 7.30 pm/7.45 pm.

Yours sincerely

Mr JMP Hallows

Enc

Apologies
Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st May 2015 incl. Action Plan
Weather Station Bid/Candles Bid
Publication of Liaison Minutes
 White Diaries
Pupil Catering Survey
Catering
Whole School Photographs
 Commemoration Day/Gazebos
Private Rooms
Rain Shelter
Sixth Form Centre
Sixth Form Exams
Lost Property
Uniform
Text Books
Umbrellas
School Finishing Time
Student Teachers
Term Dates
Curriculum
Car Park
Parents Directory
Proposed Date of Next Meeting
General School Parents' Association Matters
AOB

- Are the minutes of the PA Liaison Meeting currently available for parents to view? If so, are they online and where can we find them?

- Quite a number of parents would like to see the return of the White Diaries. The feeling is that they are far more user friendly than the online version. The question was asked as to whether the maroon book was still published. If removal of the White Diary was down to cost, it was suggested that it would be better to lose the maroon book and keep the diary.

- At the end of last term the pupils completed a survey about the food at school. Was there any feedback published?

- A number of pupils are not happy with the food quality. Feedback suggests the food is rather hit and miss and the portion sizes are smaller. On a positive note, the afternoon snack has been a success.

- It seems that the availability of the whole school photograph taken last term passed a number of parents by. How do we get hold of copies?

Consequently some 2 or 3 Houses had no gazebos at all last year, whilst others were running either simple to lavish catering, complete with banners, tables, chairs and outside catering. As all the

What about the subjects that have no AS exam? Will they do exams in the summer for practice or mocks in the U6 Autumn term? Or both?

What happens to predicted grades for UCAS and putting down AS marks? My daughter is doing Geography, Art and Biology and only the Geography will have an AS result.

I know that the tariff system is also changing and the numbers are much lower. A lot of the universities don't seem to have taken this on board yet. When I visited with my daughter on Open days recently they seemed pretty clueless, referring to the old tariff of points without any knowledge of the new system for 2017 entry.

Incidentally, I note that the EPQ that all L6 are taking (as a top up to only 3 A levels now), has a reasonable weighting in the new tariff tables, looking like the value of half an A level. That is very

- a. Portion sizes for the lunches. My son struggles and is often hungry as he is often training at lunchtimes and cannot queue for seconds(if there are any). The boys (and maybe the girls too) are expected to train and play hard which is difficult when not fed properly .
- b. Packed lunches on the way to matches are too small
- c. My son has asked if they are allowed the sandwiches (not just the teachers) when the dining room has run out of a balanced lunch ie no potatoes or veg
- d. Wholemeal bread for toast in houses. Far heal

I have been requested by a Hazeldene parent to raise an issue regarding term dates. This parent wonders why some terms are starting mid week?.

Another parent has raised a question that I am not sure is covered by our meetings. This parent wants to know why computer studies are not part of the main curriculum?

We are concerned that House funds are needed to pay for marquees for Commemoration Day, which is a school event. We feel that the school should allocate 4 marquees for each house without charge.

Over the last few years Commemoration Day has changed considerably and is now virtually an exclusive 6th Form event. We feel that steps need to be taken to widen the availability of this event so that parents of younger pupils can also experience and enjoy this part of school life.

I wish to express concerns regarding the chaotic nature of the senior school car park in the evenings.

My daughter is in lower sixth and is in Thomas Cookes House. This has meant that until the start of this term, I had been picking her up from the old police station car park.

Now that TC is back up and running, I am picking up from the main school car park and, although the car park has always been busy, I am surprised at the significant increase in traffic using the car park since the commencement of this term.

On average it takes a good 20 minutes to get out of the car park most evenings.

There would appear to be a large number of cars parked on the car park who are not collecting pupils from school at the end of a long day, but rather delivering young children or themselves for whatever activities they or their children are attending (swimming lessons and gym I assume).

Although I appreciate that the swimming lessons and gym generate an income for the school it seems somewhat poor judgement to allow cars other than those collecting Bromsgrove pupils to use the car park and facilities during the busiest time of the day.

There are young children running around and between the cars in the dark not to mention adults and Bromsgrove school pupils milling around.

To make matters worse, a number of people using the car park do not appear to be aware of the one way system, which of course causes even more chaos.

Last week someone had parked in a position that almost blocked the main entrance and then left the car unattended causing all sorts of problems not only on the car park but also on the main road outside school.

Last Friday I was unable to park in a designated space and therefore parked the best I could whilst

lucky enough to be able to park in, whilst I was more than prepared to move out of their way, the fact that a parent did not understand the importance of a 'please' and 'thank you' was somewhat disappointing in itself.

Can I suggest that to avoid an accident waiting to happen and to avoid tempers rising, serious consideration is given to who should be using the facilities at the senior school between 5pm and 6pm.

Number of parents would like the return of the White book - all aware we should be 'paperless' but it is difficult to find things in new format (parents evening dates being one example - email now sent for these) and other reasons. New online system doesn't appear to be updated with changes any more than old white book was either.

To enable parents that wish to give details of their own business - networking. Amazing diversity within parent group that all could give benefit from. Also could be utilised for potential work experience (for pupils to coordinate themselves).

Work's well for Walters but felt that system wasn't very 'fair' especially where some house PAs were not willing to book gazebos on behalf of house.