Agenda for Parental Forum 1 - 20th October 2025 (4pm-5.10pm)

Present - Mrs Amie Heaton (AHe); Mr Robert Poole (RPo): Forum Members

1. Where are we now?

- Leading Parent Partnership Award

AHe re-introduced the LPPA and ensured that all members of the group were aware of the common goal we are aiming to achieve (LPPA this year). Our assessment takes place on 19th December 2025.

- How are we communicating (home/school/students)?

A brief discussion took place in which forum members described their experience of home/school communication. This was a key focus of the quantity of communication and its effectiveness.

2. Relationship and Sex Education - update from Mr Poole

Mr R Poole (RPo) is the Director of PSHE and Citizenship. He explained that the teaching of PSHE and citizenship has developed to become a curriculum subject - known as SHARP at Sharples - which is based on statutory and non-statutory curriculum, developed to be a bespoke curriculum for our students. 'Health and wellbeing' and 'relationships and sexual health' (RSE) are statutory content. RPo outlined other areas of the curriculum that are non-statutory but also very important.

RSE relates to students being able to make informed choices and providing students with information and signposting support.

RPo highlighted 'Sharples Safe', 'Kooth' and 'Be Kind to My Mind' as appropriate sources of support for students, with RPo quality assuring all resources, which are age appropriate and delivered consistently across all year groups to all students.

RPo provided data from the local area showing a decline in children's mental health, use of vaping, alcohol and sexual health.

RPo clarified that RSE is taught from year 7, beginning with relationships. The goal of PSHE and citizenship was stated as 'to keep children safe'. The content is amplified in the presentation which is also shared in the Parent Form section of the school website.

The right to withdraw: Parents can request to withdraw their child from the ‘sex education’ aspects of RSE, up until the end of year 11 (please contact r.poole@sharplesschool.co.uk for further information). However, the majority of PSHE content is mandatory.

Forum members requested RPo provide a brief and clear timeline of content for RSE so that they were better prepared for questions for their children. Some parents noted that they had been thinking of withdrawing their child, but now that they had a better understanding of what was actually being taught, they felt that this would not be necessary.

Forum members requested a medium through which students could ask anonymous questions relating to RSE. An RSE version of ‘Sharples Safe’ was suggested.

RPo then highlighted forthcoming changes to the curriculum and explained the rationale for many changes and additions, many of which we already teach in other areas of the school curriculum. Further details can be found on the slides shared on the website.

3. Any other business

Forum members raised the possibility of hosting a **financial literacy seminar** for parents and carers.

Forum members asked whether the **school headscarf could be available in a longer length** at the front. AHe said that Mr Anwar from **Smart Clothing (our uniform supplier)** has confirmed that the headscarf is **available in XL** and that ‘this should address the need for it to be longer at the front’.

4. Next meeting: Rewards

AHe to schedule our next meeting for a Wednesday late in December and invite Mrs C Smith to discuss the current rewards policy and end of year rewards to ensure that they meet the needs of all students.

Thank you to all who attended and helped to make this a very successful first Form meeting of 2025-26!