



2024-25 Parent/Carer Forum Meeting 2

Wednesday 12th March 2.15pm-3.15pm

Minutes

Attendance:	Caroline Molyneux (CMx, Headteacher) Angela Hart (AHa, Director of Maths) Parent Forum 12th March.pptx
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1. Welcome and Introduction to the Library

AHa opened the meeting and introduced parents and carers to the library. The library is open to all students at break and lunchtime. There are also timetabled form and lesson periods booked into the library. The library includes an area for quiet reading, for homework/study, an area with computers, a games area, a "chill" area with cushions and blankets, and a tree of life which changes theme each half term. There is a library newsletter, and class reads/recommended reading lists are displayed and promoted. There are a number of library events which take place, for example, the recent "library lock-in" sleepover events, and the library is often used as a safe, quiet space during other events such as the Y7 disco.

2. Actions arising from the last meeting

- Lots of positive feedback received - thank you.
- MCAS issues - we are looking at how as a school we can improve the effectiveness of this platform - in the meantime we would appreciate you continuing to share any issues.
- Twitter content replicated on Facebook - we have requested this and we think it is now happening.
- Meet the teacher events in other years/Y8 lack of school contact - currently looking at this for 2025-26 and a calendar of events for each year group will be shared.
- Could information be provided to help parents understand what the grades on the reports mean - review of reports for 2025-26.
- Can we receive progress reports in advance of parents' evening - review of reports for 2025-26.
- Could newsletter be bespoke for different year groups - not practical at this point
- Queries linked to home learning - will be discussed again during this session
- Could we have more information about the library - there has been a newsletter article and we are here in the library today.

3. Extra-Curricular Activities

Parents and carers discussed in groups, to discuss what works well, any issues/barriers, any suggestions for improvement, and any ideas for parents/families. Feedback from parents and carers is summarised below.

What works well?

- Lots of opportunities and variety
- Promoted in the newsletter
- Lots of celebrating (could be more advertising?)
- Lots for Y7 and Y8 students (but not for older students)
- Students able to take packed lunch to the club

What could be better?

- Opportunities at KS4 (mainly seems to be Y11 ALS)
- Promoting what is going on to students and parents – details of when/where activities are taking place
- More after school opportunities that isn't just sport - what about photography, art etc
- Sharples Bacc and other activities promoted in the newsletter
- Cost – some seem not worth value
- Communication is sometimes unclear or inconsistent
- Same trips – multiple siblings – removes excitement
- Use of gym for younger year groups
- Sports clubs are cancelled when exams/mock exams are on

What opportunities could we offer for parents and families?

- Themed events (e.g. Christmas/Eid – parents were unable to attend the Sharples Family Iftar)
- Bring parent to school events where parents can sit in lessons
- Quizzes and competitions
- Fun activities for parent/child e.g. archery
- “how to” sessions for parents to learn, delivered by parent/staff experts, open to all, parents can book on, school offers venue (e.g. budgeting, yoga, fitness, nutrition, mindset, emotional intelligence, language and communication, cooking)
- Clubs for parents (reading, crochet, knitting)

4. Home Learning

AHa showed the improved website page, which will be further improved for 2025/2026

<https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/home-learning/>

Parents and carers discussed in groups what was working well and what more school could do to support parents/carers with their children's learning. Feedback from parents and carers is summarised below.

What is working well?

- Students have ownership of their own learning and can track their own homework on student portal
- Students are developing their IT skills by using different platforms and using email
- Students are developing good independent learning routines
- Online platforms work well
- Meaningful home learning tasks are being set

What could be better?

- Parent and student platforms synchronised so parents can see what homework has been set and check if it has been completed
- Can parents have access to homework scores/performance – are there parent logins for the platforms?
- More scrutiny by staff of the quality of homework the student has completed – some students spend very little time on homework with no consequence, others spend lots of time but feel their efforts are unrecognised
- Some tasks could be more meaningful and not just set for the sake of it
- Standards across the year group need to be consistent
- Notifications on MCAS about when homework has been set, with ability to turn off for different children
- Have a homework schedule for each year group – when/how often homework is set
- Consistency in how homework is set and communicated. Only English send as a weekly message (some parents really like this, some parents really don't)
- Too many different platforms

5. Uniform

CMx provided an update on proposed changes to the uniform for 2025/26.

Feedback:

- Uniform hijab is a great idea
- Tights or trousers for girls which will help issues with students rolling up skirts. One parent raised that tights may cause sensory issues for her child - discussed sourcing sensory safe tights. Rules would be revised in warm weather

6. Leading Parent Partnership Award

AHa provided information about the school's decision to work towards this award.

Parental engagement is a whole school priority – benefits include better academic performance, higher attendance, improved motivation, enthusiasm, social skills.

To support us in developing parental engagement we are working towards the LPPA award which provides a structure for improvement.

The process involves identifying areas of strength and areas for development, improvement, putting together an action plan and collecting evidence, with decision on the award made in January 2026.

Progress so far:

- Home-school communication policy
- Parent forum
- PTA
- Working group
- Initial self-evaluation against key objectives – identified many existing strengths and some areas where we can improve.
- Parent survey currently out – deadline Friday 14th March

Objectives/areas of focus for the award

- School is a welcoming, communicative and friendly place for parents
- School promotes awareness and participation of parents in supporting their children's learning and their own learning.
- School provides a good induction for all new parents
- School provides parents with relevant and user-friendly guidance and information to help them to support their children's learning
- School produces and implements parent-friendly policies to establish effective home-school links
- School provides good support for all parents as their children move through or leave the school