



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Pastoral Committee Meeting Part 1

Friday 23 June 2017

at 10.15am in the Sixth Form Conference Room

Committee Members		Attended	
Linda Neil (LN) Chair	Attended	Darren Halstead (DH)	Attended
Gila Yalarakis (GY)	Attended	Jill Cutler (JC)	Attended
Sue Pearson (SP)	Attended	Ceri Prys-Owen (CPO)	Attended
Mark Bland (MB)	Attended	Clare Scanlon (CS)	Apologies
Kayte Parlevliet (KP)	Attended	Matthew Read (Student)	Attended
Peter Burke	Attended	Cory Robson Hall (Student)	Attended
Andy Dixon (AD)	Apologies		
Mike Graham (MG)	Apologies	Kay Gresty (Clerk) KG	Attended

Item 1: Apologies

Apologies were received from Andy Dixon, Mike Graham and Clare Scanlon.

Item 2 - Declaration of Pecuniary or Conflicts of Interest

KP informed the committee that she is now on the Board of Trustees of the Christleton Learning Trust.

Item 3 - Minutes of Student Committee Meeting Part 1 on Friday 10 February 2017

The minutes of the Student Committee Meeting Part 1 on Friday 10 February 2017 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. LN commented that the new format of the minutes was much clearer to follow.

Item 4 - Feedback on Eaton House Peer to Peer Mentoring Trial – CPO & students

CPO outlined to Governors the concept behind the Eaton House Peer to Peer Mentoring Programme. CPO explained that the idea came from a student meeting when the group were discussing Eaton's 'identity'. The students wanted to focus on looking after each other and suggested setting up a mentoring programme which also gave the younger students an opportunity to act as mentors. CPO went on to say that tutors were asked to identify both students who they felt would be reliable mentors and also students who may benefit from being mentored. Students were spoken to and partnered up appropriately. Safeguarding training was conducted to ensure mentors fully understood their responsibilities. During a 'Meet and Greet' lunchtime session, the mentors and mentees were introduced to each other.

Q: GY asked about confidentiality and how this issue was dealt with?

CPO explained that the mentees were made fully aware that anything they discussed was in confidence. However any information that caused the mentors any concerns needed to be passed this onto a member of staff. Mentors were given examples of situations that needed to be disclosed to staff.

Q: GY asked if the mentors meet as a group to help and support each other.

CPO explained that this has not happened yet but going forward this would be something the school could implement.

Q: SP asked where the mentoring sessions take place.

CPO confirmed that the sessions take place in the library where there are other staff and students around.

At this point, CPO introduced two students who were asked to join the meeting and talk about their experiences.

Matthew, a Year 8 student is a mentor for two Year 7 students. Matthew explained that he wanted to be mentor as, since Year 5, he has always liked to put people first and to make them happy. Matthew explained that he meets with his mentees at tutor time at the beginning of the week. They talk about events that happened over the weekend.

Cory, a Year 7 student, explained that he has had some issues at home that he had been struggling to deal with and he realised that this was affecting his behaviour in school and the way he interacted with others. Cory explained that his mentor has helped him understand things more clearly. Cory accepted that he struggled to listen to people at home and felt that his mentor was independent and did not judge him. Cory added that he likes to meet his mentor in the library and talk about what is happening at home. He continued to explain that these sessions had enabled him to see other people's side of the story.

Q: JC asked if either of the students would volunteer to take part in this initiative next year?

Matthew acknowledged that he will be volunteering again next year.

Cory explained that he was unsure if he would volunteer to be a mentor next year as he felt he needed more time to 'find himself' before he mentored others.

Q: GY commented that the best mentors often had been mentees themselves and asked the students if they would recommend this initiative to others.

Both students confirmed that they would recommend the scheme to others going forward.

Q: LN asked how did the students think the scheme could be improved.

Matthew responded by saying that he felt that if the sessions could be increased to twice per week it would help the mentees to build up more confidence in their mentors.

Cory added that more frequent contact might enable to mentees to open up sooner, as initially he questioned why he should speak to a complete stranger.

Q: MB asked if mentees were able to meet with their mentors outside their scheduled appointment time.

Cory confirmed that this was acceptable and did happen.

Q: CPO asked if the students felt the open forum was the right way to start the programme.

Both students agreed that this was a good way to start as it was very informal and it gave the group a chance to talk in a relaxed environment.

LN thanked the students very much for their time and commented that she felt that both students had gained something from the experience.

Q: LN thanked CPO for all her work with this initiative and asked if CPO was happy to continue to develop the concept.

CPO confirmed that she would like to roll this out to the rest of the school in the next academic year,

ACTION: CPO to feedback to Governors again in the Spring Term 2018.

GY commented that she has some additional material that may be helpful.

Item 5 – AOB

There were no items raised.