

Minutes

St. Olave's P.A. Form Rep Meeting

October 2020

a) **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Welcome all new Form Reps to what would have been the first form rep meeting for this academic year! and welcome back seasoned form reps and Mr Budds as we go through another strange year. Thank you to all who have taken the time to submit their questions.

b) **Questions for the school**

• **Mock Exams**

- a. I suspect the school is still awaiting news on possible "regulated" mock exams but would welcome knowing what the school is currently thinking re timing of mocks if they are to be the usual internally run school exams. These seem especially important given there were no end of year 12 practice exams and in light of any possible future changes to assessments.
- b. Will the school publish a list of planned mock tests dates for Year 11 to allow pupils to better plan?

Mocks for Year 11 and Year 13 will be held internally in January as per usual, but with external invigilation as per the summer exam series. The timetable has now been circulated to pupils and parents

• **Lock Down/Isolation - Lessons**

- a. What type/mode of learning has been set up for pupils who are self-isolating or if in a lockdown situation, especially for Year 13?
- b. Is it possible to ensure that there will be online lessons for all subjects and not only for a few subjects?
- c. Does the school have some better/ new plans for remote classes should there be a lockdown again?
- d. Why were there so few online lessons for Year 12 during lockdown before the summer break?
- e. Feedback on lockdown: it could have helped if there had been more live interactions between teachers and students to ensure students were still engaged and motivated.
- f. Could Teams be used for classroom teaching for those awaiting testing while in quarantine or unwell? Since recordings are automatically deleted after 7 days, storage should not prove a block. Are there any other factors preventing this option being deployed?

- g. Could remote learning be considered as optional at least for pupils whose parents can support it during this time of increase in Covid cases
- h. When pupils need to self-isolate, how will the school support the students so the pupils are aware of what has been covered at school and have the learning materials made available to them online.
- i. Remote learning works both ways as it seems there were incidents where boys just watched a suggested YouTube video in a class when a teacher couldn't come (self isolating). It would be great that the teacher (if he/she is not sick) could provide a lecture from home online.
- j. The Covid infection rate is rising at alarming rate and although London/Bromley is currently on Tier 2, there is a possibility if the infection rates are uncontrollable forcing schools to have to close again. How is the school planning to deliver teaching materials and learning online? Will there be live lessons on offer? How will the Year 7 pupils be assessed on their progress (including identify learning gaps)?
- k. How will the practical elements of Science and creative subjects (ART/DT) be resumed? and what is the planned return to practicals for such subjects.
- l. I appreciate the school's great effort to keep the school running whilst complying with the gov's guideline. Please keep the school open, unless the government asks to shut down.

The Online Safety document circulated to all parents and pupils in November outlines the planned provision in place for remote and blended learning via Teams, and addresses virtually all of the questions raised.

Planned provision for creative subjects, and for science practicals, is challenging to deliver under the current zoning arrangements. Access to specialised resources has been allocated according to greatest need in terms of mandatory content for externally assessed qualifications, and some specialised resources are accessible in regularly cleaned rooms which exist outside of year group bubbles. It is feasible to deliver some Art/DT activities in non-specialist teaching rooms for younger year groups who do not have current access to studios/workshops, and schemes of work have been re-sequenced and refined to enable greater focus on theoretical elements whilst full access to usual resource and teaching space is restricted. In the Sciences, a small number of simple practical demonstrations are feasible and have been put in place in science lessons outside of the Science block, and video-learning can replicate/demonstrate some of the more complex/demanding experiments which are impossible to undertake outside of a laboratory. All involved are acutely aware that this changes the nature of pupils' learning experiences and when zoning arrangements are disappplied, plans to backfill as far as possible any skills for which practice has been missed will be put in place.

Whilst health and safety of all members of the school community remains the highest priority, every effort will be undertaken to keep the school open for as long as it is safe to do so

- **WiFi**

- a. A parent raised a question regarding WiFi in M1/M2.
- b. The WiFi is very poor and students are often asked to upload their work after lessons.

they then have to use mobile data at parental expense. Can an additional WiFi hotspot be organised for far reaching classrooms particularly as all their lessons are in this area.

- c. Overuse of data cos of bad wifi on school premises
- d. We are grateful the school WiFi seems to now be working most of time for most students. There have been a few issues reported of students sometimes straying away from school work and possibly disrupting others. Please could staff continue to remind regularly that students should use their electronic device(s) during classtime for classwork only?

The school is aware of the issues relating to wifi coverage which have been exacerbated by recent circumstances and enhanced reliance on electronic teaching and learning methods. A full survey has been undertaken and remedial work to ensure coverage consistent with current teaching and learning requirements is scheduled for early 2021.

Teaching staff have been asked to remain vigilant and ensure only work-related usage of electronic devices is permitted in classrooms. Where any issues of inappropriate usage have come to the school's attention, they have been dealt with firmly and appropriately.

● **GSCE**

- a. What is the current expectation for the Year 10 GCSE in RS? Will this be delayed for 2/3 weeks?

The RS Short Course GCSE exam for Year 10 will take place on the afternoon of 14th June 2021.

● **YEAR 8**

- a. Can we get the results for the recent tests (maths and English) as it is an indicator as to how the boys are doing in case we have to wait until March for a parents evening.
- b. The boys were only given the marks for the recent maths assessment. Is it possible for the boys to see the marked papers? Since the question papers are not allowed to be taken home, can the teacher please go through the paper so the boys can see their mistakes and learn to do the questions properly.
- c. Waiting over a year and a half to know how the boys are doing isn't the best but we do appreciate these are unusual times! Is it possible to have a Zoom parents meeting sometime soon, if that can be facilitated?
- d. GCSE options, is it possible to have some information and timelines please

If the tests are IPMs then the data would be shared with the Year 8 report this term. Teachers return marked work and go through IPMs with pupils as a matter of course so that they can improve their outcomes

The Year 8 parents' evening is scheduled for the summer term, but if in the interim a parent had specific concerns regarding their son's progress they should contact the subject teacher or, in the case of concerns across multiple subjects, the pastoral team; concerns across multiple subjects are picked up through the reporting cycle and significant issues are discussed with parents as part of the report follow up process.

The GCSE options evening will run remotely in January 2021 and a letter regarding this will shortly be sent by Dr Sidhu.

● LOCKERS

- a. There is so much for the boys to carry each day. It was also noted that Newstead found a way to make this possible for their students. Would it be possible to reconsider the removal of locker access, particularly for Year 7?
- b. At the moment, my main area of concern is 7B not having access to lockers, I am told that other classes in year 7 have access but not 7B. It's a bit inconvenient having to carry music equipment + sports clothing around during the day.
- c. Lack of lockers
- d. Can we do something about the lockers/trays to be provided so that the boys can leave some of the stuff in school
- e. year 7 students are the smallest kids with the largest bags (more than 10 to 15% of body weight), they need lockers more than anyone, other secondary schools (including grammar school in Bexley) have provided lockers for year 7's only, would the school consider something along this line?
- f. Would the school consider the possibility on days that the boys have PE, they could go into school and spend the day in their PE uniform as other schools have adopted this approach to lighten the load of things to carry.

Regrettably it is not possible to reintroduce lockers during this academic year owing to pressures on space in teaching rooms. That said, we have asked teachers to be mindful of the requests they make of students in terms of carrying resources, and asked where possible that hard copy resources, such as text books, remain in individual class rooms or within specific zones so that pupils are not required to carry them around all the time. The enhanced reliance on electronic resources is also helping to minimise the amount of physical resource which pupils are obliged to carry around with them.

● COVID MEASURES

- a. Parents appreciate the measures being taken re Covid, and the school was thanked for not enforcing masks in school and allowing the changing rooms to be used for sport. It was noted that any measures should be sensible, and mitigate any potential long term impact on mental health. With that in mind, some points raised for consideration were:
- b. Whether, in light of the increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases locally, there are any extra measures being considered by the school to minimise transmission risks? For example, using masks in school, or introducing hybrid learning (partly online)?
- c. Could the process followed in the case of a confirmed case be clarified? How would close contacts be defined? And what would be required in terms of quarantine and testing?

- d. The Covid alert level for Bromley is on high level alert from one minute past midnight on Saturday morning Oct 17, 2020. Under the government guidelines, face coverings to be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, but not usually in the classroom. Will the school be following these guidelines and enforce pupils and adults to wear face masks everywhere except in classrooms during classes?
- e. School COVID control guidance, any update ? Can student allowed to wear mask?
- f. The area where boys change into their sports/PE uniforms on the days when they have PE/games is small compared to the number of boys changing. This increases the risk of passing on any viruses / colds. Would the school consider allowing boys to come in to school in their sports uniform for the day on days when they have PE/Games?
- g. We see that children are good carriers of the virus and that is evident with the rising cases of covid after reopening of school.
 - i. We would like to know what measures are taken so that the child does not carry the virus home. If God forbid the child carries the virus home and both parents are hospitalised, who will take care of the child ? There are many families who do not have enough support in such scenario. Is it worth risking the life of parents and the child to be affected with no proper measures implemented?
 - ii. How is the bubble going to work to stop the spread of virus? The child can have siblings in different year group. When they come out of school and walk to the gate there is no year group bubble
 - iii. Can they not be given the option of home or online schooling in this current state?
- h. Can the school term holidays be increased as it has been done in most of the counties now. Also as Bromley is in high (Tier2) risk can the masks be made mandatory along with stricter social distancing rules

Masks are now a requirement in all non-classroom indoor areas of the school (corridors, foyers etc). pupils are permitted to wear masks in classes if they wish, and blended learning is already taking place when a proportion of a given class is at home whilst the rest are in school.

When a positive COVID-19 diagnosis is reported within a particular pupil cohort, the school follows the available government guidance in terms of defining close contact:

Close contact is defined as:

- *a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:*
 - *being coughed on*
 - *having a face-to-face conversation within one metre*
 - *having skin-to-skin physical contact, or*
 - *contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact*
- *a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-*

19 for more than 15 minutes

Contact tracing takes place as soon as the school is made aware of a diagnosis. Considerations in contact tracing include where pupils sit in relation to one another (all classes now have seating plans so this can be established quickly and easily); where they have changed in relation to one another for PE/Games; who they have been working closely with in PE/Games; who they may have engaged with at break/lunch etc. Wherever there is any doubt, the school errs on the side of caution and any pupil who is deemed to have been in close contact with a pupil in receipt of a positive diagnosis (or around which there is a concern that this has happened) will be obliged to isolate for a fortnight and engage in remote learning. The school shares the necessary information with the relevant authorities and liaises with pupils and parents as necessary to share information. Pupils and parents are regularly reminded that any pupil showing COVID-19 symptoms as defined by government guidelines must not to come into school and that they must arrange for a test at the earliest opportunity

The school has considered on several occasions whether to allow pupils to come in wearing their kit on days when they have Games or PE. The decision remains under review but for now the school's view is that it is preferable for pupils to change into their PE/Games kit in school.

The school uses a variety of risk-mitigation strategies in school to minimise the risk of transmission between pupils and particularly between pupils within different bubbles; students are regularly reminded of the need to follow COVID-safety guidelines when travelling to and from school.

There are no current plans to change or lengthen the school holidays

● **CLUBS/ GAMES/ ACTIVITES**

- a. Is St Olave's lobbying the rugby football union to allow matches to be played against other schools?
- b. When are additional sports clubs, such as fives and basketball, expected to begin again?
- c. Any chance to resume sports activities during/after school (currently only rugby on Tuesdays, but why not more)?
- d. Are there any other clubs available to the children? Or, are there any planned to begin shortly? If so, could details be provided.
- e. Given the current COVID situation, when is it expected that clubs will resume?
- f. If physical clubs are not possible will there be more opportunity for the boys to engage in extra-curricular virtual activities?
- g. Does the school have any personality development initiatives planned for the students?

Access to the full range of timetabled sports and games is currently constrained by the school's risk assessment and prevailing guidance regarding contact sport and shared resources. It is impossible to say at the time of writing when we will be able to return to a full programme with our usual offering. This also affects after-school clubs and sports which we are not

currently able to run. It is not possible to run the usual range of clubs/societies during lunchtimes either, owing to the current COVID-adjusted timetable which reduces the length of the lunch break for all pupils and means that pupils from different year groups cannot mix. Some clubs/societies in the Sixth Form have gone online to get around these issues. In terms of “personality development initiatives” PSHE and the ongoing assembly programme focus on the development of relevant, supportive character traits such as resilience, honesty and several others referenced in the “Olavian characteristics”.

● PE/GAMES LESSONS

- a. Can we avoid doing the PE/Games lessons outside when it's bad weather like drizzle/rains and utilize the gym or indoor area

The school's programme of sports will sometimes involve boys being outside in inclement weather.

● LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

- a. Can the school limit for football and rugby games to be played at the top field? Currently, football/rugby games are also being played where Year 11 pupils are eating lunches and regularly hitting students in the head and body and knocking their snacks/lunches over.
- b. Since there aren't many after school activities maybe we can have some online ones?
- c. Now that the weather is becoming increasingly unreliable, might the school be able to consider offering some lunchtime activities for the students? For example, board games; films; volunteering opportunities say litter picking for specific areas of the school, library duties etc.; outdoor activities and if the outdoor court(s)/quad can be dedicated for the year 7 bubble during their break for activities. Many students are very keen to be outside if at all possible, and it is easy for them to become bored and followed on from that, potentially becoming disruptive if left to their own devices without adequate supervision
- d. The boys eat their lunch outside where there is not enough tables or seating so many of them eat standing. Especially now that it is getting colder, would the school consider letting the boys eat in their classrooms instead.

Pupils' outdoor spaces within their zones are multi-functional, and can be used for eating, socialisation and playing games. Pupils are regularly asked to be mindful of others' space and staff duties have been enhanced under the current system. It is not possible to enable Year 11 students to access the fields for ball games at this time of year, but the decision regarding field access remains under review and will be revisited in the Spring. Whenever it is wet break or the weather is severely inclement, wet break rules apply and students are able to eat indoors within their zones

● WINTER WEATHER / CLASSROOMS

- a. Lack of heating/open windows, kids freezing and not being allowed to have lunch in class.
- b. Can the kids please wear coats/hats in class when cold and doors and windows open?

- c. Could the boys be encouraged to wear thermals as I think some may feel awkward about this especially when having to change for PE.

Whilst safety remains the key priority, and all teaching spaces must remain well-ventilated with open windows and doors, pupils are permitted to wear warm clothing, including hats and coats, in their classrooms. They are encouraged to be responsive to the changing weather conditions in order to stay warm enough in school.

● LUNCHES

- a. More variety at lunch please, food runs out

This point has been addressed at several previous meetings. Please see previous minutes. Under the current situation, the catering team remain responsive to the changing numbers of pupils in school each day and tailor their provision accordingly; I have yet to see the food actually run out on any given day this term, nor has this been reported to anyone in the school except via this forum.

● UNIFORM

- a. The school was requested to review the uniform, as there were some concerns about quality and smartness. In particular the blazer, which was said to be thin and poor quality.
- b. Please can the school allow the PTA access to the second hand uniform over half term so 'socially distanced' uniform sales can be arranged?

The current approved school blazer was reviewed and chosen with the support and direct input of the PA last year following trials of several different options. With regret, for reasons of risk mitigation we are currently unable to run PA second-hand uniform sales in school.

● DUKE OF EDINBURGH

- a. What is the current status for Year 10 boys who wish to Join the Duke of Edinburgh scheme

Any questions relating to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme should be referred to Mr Holland (pholla@saintolaves.net) or Mrs Andrews (vandrews@saintolaves.net)

● NEW START TIME

- a. While many parents and students are possibly enjoying the later start (9:30 a.m.) for Year 7s, some parents have expressed concerns that their sons will be leaving school in the dark at the end of the school day (4:00 p.m.) to make their journey home (especially on public transport). Is it possible for the school to consider swapping school start time with the older year groups this academic year, so Year 7s can start school earlier at 8:40 a.m. and finishing at 3:15 p.m.?

The school timetable remains under review, but for a variety of reasons there are no plans currently to swap start and finish times for different year groups as there are a number of significant logistical complexities and challenges which would arise from implementing such a decision.

- **WAITING AREA**

- a. A rugby game was cancelled due to rain and my son had to wait in the rain outside school until he was picked up, 1 hour later so he was completely drenched by the time he was collected. The school should provide shelter till the parents arrive in such circumstances and the same should be communicated to children properly, kids had no clue what to do.
- b. My son hurt himself earlier and couldn't play rugby. He also had to wait in the rain until I got there. It wasn't nice at all! School must do something about it.

If pupils are awaiting pick up after rugby at the front of the school, the space under the Chapel is covered and would afford protection from the rain. If pupils are awaiting collection at the Park Avenue entrance, there is no covered space available. It is suggested that pupils bring coats and umbrellas if the weather forecast looks inclement

- **TLF**

- a. Can the school please send out clear communications regarding the cessation of free TFL travel?

- **SAFETY OF TEACHERS /HYGIENE OF STUDENTS**

- a. No soap in the toilets – can the school or the site team ensure that this is checked regularly
- b. Broken antibac dispensers – can checks be carried out regularly to ensure they are working as well as filled up.
- c. Hygiene should be equally important to kids similar to their academic education at the school. Toilets must be cleaned 3x times per day as a minimum at the school which is in my view should be Morning, Afternoon & Evening. If there is a Financial issue to support this, We, as the parents, can suggest to Olaves Management that Olaves can suggest & request a mandatory yearly one time fundraising payment per kid which can be £10 to £30 per year and this budget should be only used for the Toilets & Hygiene related issues for the kids welfare & to their health
- d. Some parents who are contributing through donations to the school (through Virginmoneygiving) commented that they would like the PA and the school to consider using some of the funds to help provide PPE for the teachers (where applicable)

The supply of soap in the boys' toilets is checked regularly as part of the Premises Team's rounds of the school, and pupils are reminded to notify Reception immediately if there are any outages of soap. The same is true of the wall-mounted hand-gel dispensers. The school is already funding an enhanced cleaning regime which sees toilets, touch points (door handles etc) and shared rooms cleaned at regular intervals during the day. The school remains grateful for the support of parents via the PA, and stocks of PPE are currently plentiful, so the thanks expressed are very much reciprocated.

- **MESSAGE TO ST OLAVE'S STAFF**

- a. The parents of Year 7 would like to thank all the teachers and staff for their efforts to make our children feel welcome, and to guide them in their education and development, under very challenging conditions.
- b. Parents wish to pass on their appreciation and thanks for everyone at the school trying to navigate through this pandemic and helping to support and run the school/classes as well as ensuring our boys all receive pastoral care especially during these unprecedented times.

- **Any other business**

- **Date of next meeting – tbc**

- **Close – I like to thank Mr Budds for agreeing to continue our form rep 'meeting'.**