



KEVICC Parents Association
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Parent Voice meeting
Tuesday 24th March 2020, 5-6pm held online

MINUTES

Present:

PA members:

Helen Beetham
Emma Blackstock (Committee)
Clare Gale
Laura Hetherington
Ben King
Karen Legg

Taryn Nixon (Secretary)
Mary O'Toole (Co-chair)
Clare Parker
Amelia Sharp
Becky Snow (Treasurer)
South Downs Productions
Walking Dance 2015

Staff:

Alan Salt (Principal)

Apologies: none received

1. Welcome and introductions

Alan had set up the meeting using GoogleMeet, with dial-in invitations sent out to all parents and carers by email. This was a single topic Parent Voice meeting that Alan would chair about College arrangements in light of the Covid19 coronavirus.

Questions and discussion were as follows:

- 2. Current arrangements are still evolving:** Alan emphasised that nothing at the moment was normal, and that things have changed so rapidly that it will probably only be after Easter that future schooling arrangements will be set out more fully.

Importantly, although nothing has been said officially, the College is wisely planning on the basis that students may not be able to return until September in order to get good arrangements in place.

- 3. Google Classroom:** Alan explained that for safeguarding reasons KEVICC can only use College platforms, such as ClassCharts and Google Classroom. It looks like Google Classroom will become KEVICC's main virtual teaching platform. Links have been sent out and are on ClassCharts, and all students should be joining Google Classroom this week if they haven't already done so.

Homework: the message for now is to follow what specific teachers have said on ClassCharts OR otherwise keep homework on paper at home, and await further information after Easter about how to return homework e.g. through Google Classroom.

4. **GCSEs and A Levels:** students and teachers, too, were quite disheartened having had such an abrupt end to their term. Alan said that proper farewells, and the prom, would happen but probably in the next academic year; however, no one can say when at present and it will depend on Government advice.

GCSE and A level results are expected to be given out in July, and currently there is discussion about how re-sits would be organised if a student thinks their grade is too low. Alan expects to hear about these arrangements after Easter i.e. later on in April, and will write to everyone as soon as he knows.

5. **Free school meals:** as emailed, free school meals are now being dealt with by vouchers. In due course, the College may be looking for suitable collection points (e.g. Morrisons and other supermarkets, but this is yet to be decided. If helpful, the PA could canvas opinion to see where the best collection points might be – but again, this would all depend on future Government advice.

[Post-meeting **scam alert:** the PA facebook site has flagged up that there is a new scam operating where people ask for bank details, on the pretext of putting meal voucher money into bank accounts.]

6. **School books and other resources:** as emailed, it is not possible to go to the College at the moment to collect school books. The College is thinking about how best to get books out to students, and also how to distribute some of the school resources that would have been used in school (e.g. paper, art materials) to where it is most needed. We may know more if the situation is clearer after Easter.

Not all households will have suitable technology such as keyboards, headsets with microphones for online meetings, screens and WiFi. It was also noted that the PA has some funds that could go towards this. The PA and the College would continue to liaise over the possibility of buying equipment for the school to loan out and accessing online learning.

7. **Keeping in touch and thanks:** everyone agreed that the College including all the staff have been brilliant at circulating information so frequently and regularly.

Everyone thanked Alan for his management and communication – including for the letter he sent to GCSE and A level students which had been greatly appreciated – and asked him to pass on huge appreciation from the PA to the College. Alan agreed that students have been brilliant and the teaching staff have been amazing; on Friday the Senior Leadership Team were even out delivering school meals all over the South Hams. If ever there is a best time to message teachers in appreciation, this is it.

The next scheduled Parent Voice meeting is on 23rd June 2020. However, this online meeting was so successful that it seems sensible to consider this as a good additional option for communication.

Mary O'Toole (Chair)

Signed:

Dated: