



City of Rochester School - Parent Advisory Group (PAG)


Meeting Date: 20th June 2024

Time: 14:00 – 15:15
17:00 – 19:00

Present: Sheila Humphrey (Registrar), Kelly Lovell (Assistant Headteacher & DSL) Sarah Botten (parent), Stacey Souten (parent), Maria Smith (parent), Louise Smith (parent)

Apologies: Amanda Kemsley

Topic Discussed	Ideas/actions
Policy update	<p>Changes to Attendance Policy from September 2024 -due to new guidelines from Department of Education: DfE's guidance, Working Together to Improve School Attendance, has been updated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify the link between improving attendance and wider school culture. • Place more emphasis on the importance of working in partnership with families to find supportive routes to improve attendance. <p>Working together to improve school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p> <p>RSE is also being updated to include the new guidelines detailed below: https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/supporting_documents/Draft%20RSE%20and%20Health%20Education%20statutory%20guidance.pdf</p> <p>There has also been updates on Data Sharing.</p> <p>The new policies will be circulated and updated on the school website.</p>
Vocational College Open Day	<p>27th June 2024 – Open evening 5-7pm</p> <p>All parents have been invited to come and look round our New Vocational College, what to expect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrations in the upstairs classrooms of Health and Beauty and a display of student's academic work. • Workshop - Construction demonstration and Motor Mechanics. • Gift making, have a go at making a keyring. • Local businesses have been invited (especially those on Medway City Estate) • Press have been invited. • Refreshments <p>The College has already been able to set up a work experience placement on Medway City Estate - spray painting.,</p> <p>We informed parents that we are currently waiting for an OFSTED inspection as we have applied for our numbers to increase due to the increased capacity at the Vocational Collage.</p>

<p>Curriculum Updates</p>	<p>Options Booklet – 2024</p>  <p>Options booklet 2024.pdf</p> <p>The choice of options has been received well by both parents and pupils with the enthusiasm of the pupils and their understanding of the process being praised.</p> <p>The lack of a Sports based Option was mentioned, previous experience, has informed the school that pupils have not expected the amount of theory work involved (rather than actually playing sport). The Vocational College will be running a Sport based qualification and we will also look into other, available qualifications involving sport.</p> <p>Alternative Provisions:</p> <p>Curly’s Farm – Unfortunately the travelling time to reach this provision was far too long and the decision was made to stop using them.</p> <p>Creepy Claws – This provision was on hold due to renovation work being carried out, but we are now accessing this provision.</p> <p>Squirrells Riding School – We continue to access this provision for the majority of our experiential placements, and this has the added benefit of a classroom space on site.</p> <p>Catch 22 – This college is in Sittingbourne; we currently have a student completing a Hair & Beauty qualification and they will be returning next year to study Hospitality & Catering (1 day a week).</p> <p>Larkin Farm This is located at Abbey Court School and provides pupils a learning environment to motivate and engage them with personalised, visits arranged for school groups including Work Experience and Personal Development. We have recently started to use the facility and hope this will expand over the next Academic Year.</p>
<p>Wellbeing and Welfare including Safeguarding</p>	<p>Proposed updates for KCSIE September- 2024 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amending the definition of ‘safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children’ in line with Working together to safeguard children 2023. • additional information around when children may require early help, in accordance with the guidance in Working together. • a recommendation for school staff, governors and trustees to use the DfE Data Protection guidance for schools³ to understand data protection. • clarification that schools continue to be responsible for the safeguarding of pupils they place with an alternative provision provider. <p>We are confident that all necessary checks are in place in relation to all the Alternative Provisions offered to our pupils.</p> <p>Young Carers: This initiative aims to support Pupils who take on caring responsibilities at home, ensuring they receive the support they need while continuing their education.</p> <p>We are working towards an award as this will give us a framework to embed a culture of supporting our Young Carers and try and remove some of the stigma around being a Young Carer.</p>

	<p>The school provided a Cinema trip for our Young Carers during the last holiday and we are working on a summer program for our Young Carers, letters will follow and this won't only be available for Young Carers.</p> <p>Switch café</p> <p>The school recently ran a six- week program for some of our older students 'Crime Diversion Program' and has led onto some individual 1-1 mentoring sessions this term.</p>
AOB:	<p>Anti-bullying Quality Mark</p> <p>As you are aware the school have been working on achieving the 'Anti-bullying Quality Mark' over the last year and we are expecting a visit to be assessed for this soon. We have previously asked all parents to complete an online survey regarding this and we hope that some of you would be available to come into school to speak to the assessment team, when the date of the visit is confirmed. We are also updating our website so that Bullying has its own page of information, further details will be given once the website is ready.</p> <p>PAG Meetings for Next Academic Year:</p> <p>The school has tried several different formats to encourage and facilitate these meetings.</p> <p>We will continue to hold three meetings a year at school in – Terms 2,4 & 6 and updates will be sent out in Terms 1,3 & 5</p> <p>Term 1 – PAG update will be emailed to all parents/carers</p> <p>Term 2 - Meeting held 19th December 2024 – This meeting will be held in school following the Parent's evening performance (times for parent meetings will be arranged around the PAG meeting for those that wish to attend).</p> <p>Term 3 - PAG update will be emailed to all parents/carers</p> <p>Term 4 – This meeting will be held in school: Thursday 12th February 2025 - 17:30 – 18:45.</p> <p>Term 5 - PAG update will be emailed to all parents/carers</p> <p>Term 6 – This meeting will be held in school: Thursday 12 June 2025 - 14:00 – 15:00</p> <p>Our hope is that all parents will be able to attend at least one of these meetings throughout the next academic year. We will continue to circulate the meeting minutes and will send updates out to all parents/carers on alternate terms.</p> <p>Please contact us if you have anything that you would like raised/discussed at the PAG meeting as your opinions matter to us.</p> <p>All minutes will be available on the school website and your feedback and queries are always welcome.</p>