

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Friday, 28 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Now that we have had the final parents evening of the year I wanted to update you on how we are responding to the feedback that you give us. It is really helpful to us to know what you think about what we do well and what we can do to improve further as a school.

#### How do we obtain parental feedback?

We obtain feedback in a range of ways. Every time we have a parents evening we ask parents to fill in a survey and we get good responses to these.

It would be helpful if as many parents as possible could complete these surveys as they are really valuable to us. It is also really helpful if you add your name so that we can get back to you if you have a specific query that you raise in this way. We also use other contact with you whether through email or face-to-face to gather feedback from you. If you ever have suggestions for improvement or compliments, then please do contact us on <a href="mailto:info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk">info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk</a> and let us know what you think.

# How do we follow up on parental feedback?

We do take feedback seriously. If we receive praise for a member of staff we will always pass that on to them and it is really appreciated. We also look at suggestions for improvement carefully. For example, after each parents evening survey we discuss the findings at the senior leadership team meeting and often make changes to our practice as a result. Some changes we have made this year are outlined below.

# Adding capacity in the learning support team.

We recognise that, as in all schools, there has been an increase in the number of SEN needs being identified. To meet these needs. We have expanded the capacity in the team.

- Appointing Mrs Freeman to a new post as SEN administrator early in 2023
- Establishing a dedicated SEN email which is helping to ensure that parental requests are responded to effectively <a href="mailto:sen@phs.cheshire.sch.uk">sen@phs.cheshire.sch.uk</a>
- Appointing an additional LSA with focus on autism as this is a growing area of need

 Establishing additional training for teaching staff through the April 2023 INSET Day and regular training briefings.

# **Extending rewards in school**

We have done more to increase the use of rewards in school for students. There has been an increase in the number of house points been given by staff which is pleasing. We are also bringing back the governors' celebration evening which will celebrate students for a range of activities they have done in school. This will be held in July 2023.

As we introduced Class Charts at the start of the school year you are able to see the rewards your child has obtained and can praise at home as well.

## Improving home-school communication

We are a big organisation and know that it is important that we keep reviewing our communication with parents. This year we have:

- Increased the frequency of the newsletter so that they are monthly rather than half termly
- Launched a Learning Support bulletin
- Appointed Miss Sharples as an additional attendance officer to increase our capacity to contact home to support on attendance.

It might be helpful for us to remind you of who best to contact if you have a query. This can be found at Poynton High School & Performing Arts College - Contact Us (phs.cheshire.sch.uk)

We will also put this as a table on the newsletter each month as a reminder to you.

#### Improving our student toilets

We have toilets for Years 7, 8 & 9, 10 & 11 and Sixth Form and from 18 April have been using the conduct card to reinforce our expectation that these toilets are only for certain year groups. Students should only use these toilets before school, at break, at lunch and after school. If they need to use the toilets during lessons they are always able to use the toilet in the first-aid room. You will understand, however, that we would much rather students were learning in lessons than missing learning by using the toilet at this time.

# **Reintroducing the Conduct Cards**

Following Easter we brought back the conduct cards which we had used prior to COVID. This means that students who make the odd mistake with uniform will not receive C points but will have further chances before they receive a sanction. Students with a completely clean green card at the end of the half term will receive an H4 and all students will return to a green card at the start of each new half term.

#### **Reviewing Parents Evenings**

Following feedback we will review the way that we organise and run parents evenings next year to ensure that they are effective for parents, students and teachers. We will certainly continue with our information evenings for each year group that are held in school and are keen to expand the number of support sessions that we hold for parents, building on the success of the revision evening for Year 11 parents held last term. This term we will be running a session in school for parents run by the local NHS Mental Health Support Team on supporting young people with their mental health.

#### Office 365

All current students are able to download a full copy of Microsoft Office for free using Microsoft Office 365. On the link below are some instructions on how to download office which you may find helpful.

Poynton High School & Performing Arts College - Office 365 (phs.cheshire.sch.uk)

Thank you again for your feedback and your support and I hope you have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

Best wishes

Matthew Dean Headteacher

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