

Present:

Staff	
Jon Lawson	Assistant Principal
Joanna March	PA to Principal
Marian Porter	Assistant Principal
Phil Wilkinson	Head of ICT

Parent	Child(ren) in Year ...
Kelly Castelete	8
Nichola Farley-McFadyen	8
Stacey Hill	8
Ana Pereria	7
Rosetta Tickner	12

Apologies received from Angela Nobre and Penny Matthews
1 Welcome

Jon Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Marian Porter, Assistant Principal with responsibility for Safeguarding, and Phil Wilkinson, Head of ICT.

2 Matters Arising

- **Student Council**

Jon reported that the Student Council is in the process of being relaunched. **Jon will keep the Forum updated on its progress.**

- **Newsletter**

The feedback/suggestions for improvement from members at the last Forum meeting were taken on board, with the most recent issue reflecting these suggestions. Members of the Forum gave very positive feedback on the content of the Newsletter.

- **Cashless Payment System**

Joanna March informed the Forum that steps are being taken to move forward with a cashless payment system for parents. Initial training for admin staff will take place in the near future. **Joanna will update members on the progress of this development at the next meeting.**

3 Child Safety and Social Media

Jon Lawson invited Phil Wilkinson to talk about how the ICT faculty work with the students to show them how to keep safe when using the internet. Phil distributed a document entitled '**eSafety Scheme of Learning Overview**', which is an overview of a scheme of work that the ICT faculty deliver over a 6 week period to the Year 7 students. He explained that the staff show them how to collaborate online and submit their work through blog sites, using the Google Drive system. Students learn how to make their blogs private and ensure their sites are password structured. Phil explained that, although staff can't demonstrate on an actual social media site such as Facebook due to the fact that the Year 7 students are not old enough to use this, they use mocked up profiles to ensure that students are made aware of the potential risks of using social media sites. With Year 9 students the ICT staff show them how to set the privacy settings on Facebook. Staff also use a variety of media from Youtube which can help

the students to become aware of the dangers. Phil went on to say that student safety online depends on parental guidance, their access to technology at home and how their parents view social media.

Marian Porter then explained what other steps are taken in the Academy to keep students safe online. Marian carries out a series of assemblies for all year groups to inform and guide the students on how to stay safe online. These assemblies are differentiated according to the year groups. Marian went on to say that as well as herself, all the Progress Leaders and Darren Gadsby (Vice Principal) are fully trained to deal with all safeguarding issues and if parents have any concerns they can ask these individual members of staff for advice or support at any time. If there are any issues with online safety for individual students, it is always dealt with according to the letter of the law and parents are informed. If necessary, the Academy can have Facebook accounts disabled.

At this point some members of the Forum expressed their concerns regarding how emotionally equipped young people are to deal with the consequences of social media and whether more could be done to get these messages through to them. Further concerns were expressed regarding how naïve some young people are when using social media, the expectations they may feel from their peers/members of the opposite sex and also how bullying can literally be brought into their homes and bedrooms now with social media.

The discussion then moved on to what could be done further to keep our young people safe. Phil Wilkinson agreed to look at the ICT Curriculum to see if there is any scope for covering further aspects of esafety with KS3 students. It was suggested that an information evening for parents could be held. Stacey Hill informed the Forum that the police have a new cyber crime department which is keen to work with schools and they would be happy to come in to work with staff and parents. Kelly Castelete passed on a leaflet entitled '*Think you know it?*' to Marian Porter.

Actions: Phil Wilkinson to look at the ICT Curriculum with a view to including more lessons on esafety.

Marian Porter to explore the possibility of holding a Parent Information Evening in Term 6 (including working with the police cyber crime department).

4 Next Meeting

Some discussion took place regarding the agenda for the next meeting and it was agreed that 'Sex Education and Associated Issues' should be the topic for discussion. The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 5.30 pm in CM4.**

Action: Jon Lawson to ask Deb Cooksley for an update on clubs and extra-curricular activities for the next meeting.