# Felsted Parents' Group Minutes

## 7.00 for 7.30pm on Monday 16 June 2025
## Coffee Shop, Felsted School

1. Attendance/apologies
   2x Mont's, 2x Stocks's, 2x Elwyn's, 2x Manor, 1x Follyfield, 1x Windsor's, 2x Deacon's, 1x Garnetts, 2x Gepp's

2. Matters arising from previous minutes (where not on agenda) (CJT)
   a) update on afternoon quiet study time in houses (CJT)
      - Going ahead in September (Years 9 and 10) on Mondays and Wednesdays in the late part of the afternoon. Some parents would also like Year 11 built into the plan. **Action: SLT & HMs**

   b) update on tutor communications with parents (GWSM)
      - Point has been emphasised to tutors, hopefully parents have seen improvement in consistency. We have also appointed a senior leader to oversee from September. **Action: FMB**

   c) update on 'borrowing' of personal property in houses (GWSM)
      - HMs focused on this and ensuring good supervision

   d) update on Newsletter format (CJT)
      - Discussed further with JAD. Clickthrough data is similar to the previous style newsletter. Asked him to work with a parents focus group. Key driver was bringing together two newsletters into one. **Action: JAD**

   e) update on Speech Day(s) (CJT/GWSM)
      - parents of prize winners have been invited to the Wednesday Prize Giving.

   f) update on food survey (GWSM)
      - Catering Manager is sending round a survey to the pupils to rank the menu items, starting with lunch and supper. **Action: RHA**

3. Parent Survey feedback (CJT)
   - Good response rate - 66% of pupils in the school represented by the parents who completed it.
   - 95% happy at school, 96% safe at school, 95% made a good friend
   - excellent for pastoral care
   - strong performance for teaching and learning, important to parents
   - big improvements: way HM cares for child and academic
   - areas for improvement: communication with tutor, facilities, digital literacy, behaviour, careers advice
   - Value for money: school aware and will keep firmly in mind
   - Stretch and challenge
   - Sport - including opportunities for all
   - Behaviour management - focus on respect alongside high standards
   - Character education valued and life readiness, beyond exams
   - Careers department really important for parents and pupils

- Conclusions: behaviour management, communication (tutors particularly), stretch and challenge, Character Education, careers provision and readiness for life, sports opportunities, facilities (e.g. investment in classrooms and houses)
- Identify the short 10 key questions and create a micro-survey to run each term (or twice / year). **Action: GWSM**
- Comments from parents present at the meeting:
    - comparison between Deacon's vs Gepp's entrance experience
    - sports opportunities including equitable between boys and girls Social media comparisons can be made. A difference is perceived. Some sports seem to get more coverage than others - could be more even. Important to ask the female staff to comment. **[Action: CJT will consult with (female) sports staff]**. Also consistency around match reports.
    - Pre-season training is important to be consistent.
    - Levels of training for A, B and C must be consistent.
    - Would be good to get more spectators for Netball (and also perhaps hockey). Lindsay Keable already on the case. **Action: LMK**
    - Instagram also important.

4. The power of positive word-of-mouth marketing (CJT)
    - We do want parents to be positive ambassadors for the school, including to promote the positive outcomes of the parent survey. Also see 7. below. **Action: Parents Reps**

5. Vaping, energy drinks, screen time, sleep (CJT)
    - Big pastoral issues for teenagers:
        - Vaping still a problem,
        - Energy drinks are not good for you,
        - Screen time as per Dr Aric Sigman's talk
        - Importance of sleep
        - Parties
    - Heads' talks / seminars will be planned from September. **Action: CJT/MJN**

6. Behaviour management (CJT)
    - See above: a reboot is planned, particularly focusing on respect and high standards. **Action: CJT, MJN & SLT**

7. WhatsApp groups (CJT)
    - keen to have a **Parents code of conduct for WhatsApp groups**, to emphasise the priority of information-sharing rather than negative opinion-sharing. If parents are unhappy with something they are strongly encouraged to come and tell us. If they are happy with something, please go out and tell others (as per item 4 above)! **Action: CJT/MJN**

8. AOB
    - "Supporting Revision" online seminar - Weds 25 June at 7pm, particularly for Year 10 and L6 Parents.
    - Sports

    - Filming opportunities for GCSE/A Level PE - two VEOs available for use.
    - Gazebo / dry robes for tournaments - sets of dry robes available and gazebos
    - S&C classes to improve fitness - new facility hoped for in the next academic year.
    - What 3 Words for sports venues - particularly for away matches. **Action: CRSEC/Sports Admin**
    - Staffing of teams, training and PE lessons - concerns around qualifications for sports sessions / lessons.
    - Really important to make sure that SOCS is up to date every week with the member of staff. **Action: DoS / Sports Admin**
    - N.B. we no longer employ Gap students. Only Graduates.
    - Presentation of sports staff compared with other schools i.e. uniform sports staff kit. **Action: DoS**
- Can short sleeve shirts be worn during shirt sleeve order? Yes, absolutely!
- L6 Driving rules to be communicated annually. **Action: GWSM's office (beginning of September)**
- Spare water bottles for exams with no writing on them. **Action: ALFS**

Date of next meeting: Monday 6 October 2025

**GWSM**
**16.06.25**