FELSTED PARENTS' GROUP MINUTES

7.00 for 7.30pm on Thursday 5th February 2026
Coffee Shop, Felsted School

1. Attendance/apologies

23 parents in attendance representing a range of houses and age groups

1.a) SAFI Coffee
Pupils presented on SAFI coffee, which was well received. Parents were interested in the concept.

Action: put a link in the newsletter to enable parents to support SAFI

2. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising
   a) afternoon protected study time in houses

Any comment on how this is going? It has taken a bit of work to get it to be effective in all areas, but it has changed the feeling a bit on what that time of day is for.

Really good to have some time in house, more focused. Think it's good but needs more work to make it work effectively. No specific action, but supportive of the step taken.

   b) tutor communications with parents (GWSM)

We feel that these have improved, but just want a quick check on whether you feel that they have dropped off at all in some areas.

Feedback was that there was a marked improvement across the whole school and that this was appreciated. No action, just keep up the good work!

   c) 'borrowing' of personal property (CJT)

I know that this is a problem in houses, and we are trying to do some work on that - but, I also did a collection of lost property from the pitches on Sunday when walking the dog, and there were two bags worth of kit, some named (returned), some not, being advertised in newsletter. School trying to be more proactive over lost property.

Action: school to investigate a Personalisation service - embroidered or iron-on via school shop

Post Meeting note: The cost of this is seen as being prohibitive, but the shop does provide name tapes for each pupil, and matrons can be asked to help with adding these to items of kit'

   d) Newsletter format

Metrics suggest that Heads notes are read, and sports reports, and then people dip in and out. Still working on the ideal format! Any comments to Marketing.

e) Speech Day(s)

Will be similar format to last year - already planning in place. Will ensure good comms to ensure maximum parental attendance at the Year 9-12 event, awarding prizes sooner to ensure attendance possible.

3. Vaping - Heads' Seminar (GWSM)

Advertise the Seminar on Saturday. Various colleagues to talk to parents about Safeguarding, Wellbeing, Health and Boarding viewpoints, for parents to engage with this. [Sadly turn out was poor - but information to be shared via newsletter.]

4. Mobile phones - new DFE guidance

GWSM talked through the new expectations and the possible legal change for schools including U16s and social media. Need to shift the practice a bit for the sixth formers but otherwise in line with expectations.

Social media, regulations - the general consensus was supportive of this.

Action: CJT to follow up about ways to manage internet further on site.

5. Updates on school structure (CJT)

Pre-Reception class has got the go ahead, and will be launched officially in the next few weeks. The decision has been made that Years 5-6 will no longer have Saturday school - meaning an opportunity to review that fee level, although we will offer an alternative to them on Saturdays. Still working on the 7-8 solution for 2027.

Parents want to know about the teaching provision for Years 7-8 and also consideration for leadership positions in Year 8.

Action: GWSM to discuss with LKS, FMB and LJB

6. Sports Tours and their timing (GWSM)

At the moment, the principle is once every 3 years for each sport, but the demand here appears to be higher. Focus on shorter trips every 2 years?

Attract a different calibre of people to sports if they are every two years. Mixed sports tours. Brilliant trip to SA.

Action: GWSM to speak to Sports staff and update tours to reflect the alternate year model

7. Work experience for Year 10s

We are still searching for a few placements, although the majority are now in place. Recognised the difficulty of placing children at this age, but felt to be a good thing on balance.

8. Items from parents

a) WiFi issues at school

Installing new WAPs over half term, key message to the pupils; if it's not working go to the IT department with your device.

Action: JLA to get the IT Teams to go to the houses, starting with the U6 houses.

b) Social media platforms

Issues around META and advertising on social media platforms, as a means for sharing school information. We are trying to share information via newsletter (although that requires it to be read!) rather than social media. Will discuss further with Marketing department

c) Food

Had some concerns over fruit - this is being resolved!! Recognised that it was a mistake. Actual quality of food and quantity of food outside the dining room. What can pupils do if they are concerned? Consultation with Prefects - outcome from that was mainly positive. Must make pupils aware of food committee and participate in it actively, but needs to happen regularly as well.

But there is a lot of waste, some pupils want more, larger portions. Can feedback be gathered more regularly by catering team from those eating?

Action: CJT to look at external consultant to come in and review catering provision

9. Revision opportunities for pupils

Consultation with prefects about support for A Level students and IB students - very positive feedback on the whole. A bit about IB, which needs further attention, and we are looking at a week's revision at Easter for those who want it.

What about for GCSE pupils? Do parents know what is available and what their sons/daughters are accessing? If not - we can solve that.

Action: (for LKS) GCSEs: could there be options for day pupils during the day rather than in the evening.

Generally positive about the provision for revision at all levels currently.

Post meeting note: Day pupils have been told that they can access revision sessions remotely - please do encourage your sons/daughters to ask for this if they would like this support

10. Date of next meeting: Monday 11 May

CJT
20.02.26