

## Lower Parent Forum – Thursday 18th September 2025

### Attendees

Andrea Bingley – Chair

Amy Lynch – Y1 Representative

Samantha Young – Y2 Representative

Elsie Hayford – Y3 Representative

Vicky Halliday – Y4 Representative

Hannah Williams – Y5 Representative

Nicola Allen – Y6 Representative

Cait McNamara – Notetaker

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### 1. Welcome & Introductions

AB opened the meeting with introductions.

Parent Forums will be scheduled before Governors' meetings throughout the year to allow structured feedback. Dates will be provided in advance.

Forums aim to provide a structured and positive way of communicating with parents.

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### 2. Year Group Feedback

#### Year 1 (AL)

Advance notice of events: Parents would like at least one month's overview to allow planning.

Communication channels: Currently split between Parentmail and email; lack of consistency makes it hard to track. Suggestion: one platform and clearer guidance on when responses are required.

Homework: Felt overwhelming this week. Request for clearer guidelines on time expectations.

House points and certificates: Unclear at the start; parents would like information on systems to engage at home.

Reading records: Suggestion for booklets rather than slips to track progress across the year.

> AB Response: Will review communication systems and consider consolidation.

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## Year 2 (SY)

Uniform: Concerns over PE kit quality, sizing, and availability. Parents support a possible change.

NA noted: Top of the Class (TOTC) uniforms are better quality. PE kit appearance matters when representing the school.

KS1 SATs: Parents queried whether these would take place.

AB confirmed: No, the school does not do KS1 SATs.

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## Year 3 (EH)

Advance notice of events: As with Y1, request for monthly overviews.

No other concerns raised.

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## Year 4 (VH)

Event follow-up: A parent reported no feedback after the Ice Cream Farm event.

Facilities: Spiders reported in girls' toilets.

Supervision at drop-off: Concerns raised about children waiting at 8.30am

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#### Year 5 (HW)

Communications: Same request for earlier notice of events.

After-school clubs: Request for greater variety, more availability, and options for siblings across year groups.

Sports: Suggestion for lower school football and netball teams.

Leadership roles: Query whether prefects/ambassadors will be elected as in previous years.

Uniform: Clarification needed for when girls transition from pinafores to skirts, as uniform shop staff are unclear.

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#### Year 6 (NA)

ISA swimming: Will Mr Williams organise this?

After-school clubs: Too sport-focused; suggestion for alternatives such as science club, choir, or singing. Current violin-only option feels exclusive.

Storage: Bigger bags and equipment require better locker space.

Library: Query on access and status.

AB response: Library still in use, will move upstairs with computers in future.

Parent access to work: Request for appointments or periodic sharing of children's work.

Football club: Query on Thursday after-school football; a parent-coach (with checks completed) is waiting for school's response.

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### 3. Additional Matters Raised

Fundraising event: AB suggested exploring a school ball.

Financial support: EH raised possibility of a parental fund to support families struggling with fees.

AB response: Will investigate legalities.

School stability: EH noted closures at other independent schools; parents keen to explore ways to support school financially.

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#### 4. Next Steps

School to review:

Consolidation of communication systems.

Uniform/PE kit standards.

Expansion and variety of after-school clubs.

Locker/storage solutions.

Response to parent-coach football offer.

AB to investigate:

Feasibility of fundraising ball.

Legalities of a parental financial support pot.

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#### 5. Closing

AB closed the meeting, noting that some issues require follow-up with specific staff members.

Minutes to be circulated to attendees.

Meeting Ended

