



October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parent Forum

Following on from our successful first Parent Forum meeting in June, we are holding another meeting on **Wednesday October 13th 4pm-5pm** at The High School Leckhampton.

In my letter in March, I gave a little background into **Parent Forums**:

What is a Parent Forum?

Parent forums are a way for schools to encourage parents or carers to get involved in school life and support the school. They are informal groups that bring together parents, carers, school staff and members of the school community at scheduled meetings, where everyone attending can give their views about matters relating to the school community.

What authority does Parents' Forum have?

The **Parent Forum** is a consultative body and has no financial or statutory powers. The Governing Body remains the decision maker and provides strategic leadership. The **Parent Forum** does not arrange fundraising activities (this is the role of the PTFA), nor is it to be the interface for specific areas of concern around individual children.

What is the purpose of our Parents' Forum?

Our **Parent Forum** will provide the opportunity for us to seek and to listen to the views of parents. At our first meeting, we asked for your views in relation to certain aspects of our *school uniform*. We also gave parents the opportunity to tell us about the impact of *COVID* on your families and this was invaluable as we could address any issues and tailor our Year 6/7 Transition arrangements and PSHE.

At our next meeting, we will be seeking your views on the transition period (the first few weeks here), the ongoing impact of Covid at home, and other general matters relating to the organisation of the school. Please note that all issues discussed will be 'general' and not related to a specific child, teacher or incident. If parents do have specific concerns about their child these should always be raised with the school privately.

Who can attend?

I and/or other members of the School Leadership Team will attend and chair the meeting.

As with the first **Parent Forum** meeting, the group will be made up of volunteer parents of children who started here in September 2021 and is open to all. We would like the **Parent Forum** to reflect the diversity of the community. We hope it will include, for example, parental representation from different cultures and ethnicities; those whose child/ren have Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and from all year groups (when the school grows from 2022).



In order for the **Parent Forum** to be a constructive opportunity for open discussion, we will aim to have between **6-10 families** represented at each meeting, with **no more than one adult** attending from a family. If more than 10 families express an interest in attending a meeting, the school will select names randomly. The school will ensure that families from all feeder schools are represented over time.

Parents who would like to attend the next forum meeting, should register their interest by emailing (by 9am on Monday October 11th) :

thsl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

How will I know if I have been invited to attend a meeting?

We will email interested parents asking them to confirm their attendance for the meeting on Wednesday. Those parents who are not invited to attend that particular meeting, will also receive an email and ask if they would like to be included in the next **Parent Forum**.

What if I am unable to attend?

Please do not worry if you are not able to attend a **Parent Forum** – your voice is still important. There are regular opportunities calendared for us to seek your views and for you to ask questions about the school, not least the usual questionnaires, parents' evenings, and presentation evenings. All parents and carers should feel free to pick up the phone at any time with a query or question and we will always try and get back to you as soon as possible.

I hope that many of you will also consider joining the PTFA and help raise some valuable funds for the school to help support the activities we would like to be able to offer your children.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher