



# PORT·REGIS

## Prep Year Group Representatives Meeting

Tuesday 27th June, 0830

Present	Titus Mills (TM)	Headmaster
	Henry Marshall (HM)	Deputy Pastoral Head
	Kevin Binns (KB)	Bursar
	Jack Humphrey (JH)	Director of Sport
	Rebecca Walker (RW)	Clerk
Year Group Reps:	Louisa Cowan, Camilla Balmer, Annabel Bayliss, Con Bridgeman, Debra Collier, Katherine Vaughan and Charlotte Meyer	
Apologies:	Zara Turner, Ali Haysom, Charlotte Burnand	
Not present:	Lucie Vaillancourt, Lucy Felton	

TM thanked parents for their participation and for volunteering to take on the role over the last year and welcomed Debra Collier who will be the new Year Group Rep for A Form from September. He asked that if parents wanted to hand over the role to another parent, please could they give us some help with this by approaching other parents on the school's behalf.

With reference to new families joining us in September, TM stated that over the next few weeks new children will be buddied with others to build contacts. As part of your role, we would be grateful if you could contact new families who will be joining PR in September to introduce yourselves and to offer to add them to the year group WhatsApp group. Rebecca is asking for permission from new parents and will pass on their email addresses during the summer holiday.

TM explained that several parents have asked for the Minutes and Action Logs to be circulated to all parents, which the school will undertake after future meetings. Minutes will be sent out soon after the meeting, and the action log will follow just before the next Reps meeting. Parents have also asked for Year Group Reps to ask their year group for their input for meetings via email rather than the WhatsApp group as some parents are not on this platform.

### Action Log from Year Group Reps meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

This was sent out to Parent Reps prior to today's meeting.

TM asked if anyone would like to raise anything from the action log.

F Form:

Although SOCS and MSP is up and running, it has been difficult to access and download several sports' events. JOH explained that this has now been resolved.

From the last Action Log regarding boys' gym, it would be a real shame to reduce the amount of gym as it is important for conditioning and strength.

#### Prep Year Group Reps invited to share any positives raised by their year group:

A Form:

- Feedback from A Form parents is that the last few weeks have been amazing and very special, with the Bivvy camp and other events including the leavers' lectures.
- The Wessex Athletics event was a great success and parents enjoyed seeing different year groups supporting each other.

E Form:

- E Form have had an amazing year and parents are very happy with the E Form tight knit staff team.

D Form:

- There is great camaraderie within the group with positive feedback. Particular mention of the Head of Swimming, Deanna Carter, who has been a great addition to the team.

#### Prep Year Group Reps invited to share any concerns raised by their year group:

A Form:

- Parents of international children have contacted the year group expressing their concern about other prep schools closing and dwindling pupil numbers, so any reassurance from the governors would be beneficial to provide context to them. Titus will pass on to the governors the request but reassured parents that Port Regis is in good health.

B Form:

- Would like to know if the new Head of Drama and Director of Music will continue with the advanced acting group, and similar music groups. It was confirmed that there is no plan to change this, and these will continue.
- One B Form Rep raised frustrations about the issues that parents seem to bring to the Reps' meetings. In his opinion they tended to be banal and mundane. Titus responded saying that all the issues raised by parents, whether big or small, were relevant and were worth discussing. He welcomed discussion around more strategic issues and encouraged parents to raise these points either in the Reps' meetings or, alternatively, they can book a meeting with him to talk things through one-to-one. Titus is very happy to discuss all matters, whether they be strategic, or day-to-day routines.

D Form:

- Concern over staff changeover of both girls' houseparents in the Mansion and how it has been unsettling. TM is confident that the new staff will be excellent but understands that it is not ideal timing.

- Communicating return times to school after matches, and can comms be shared more quickly if there are delays. Cricket matches are more difficult to anticipate, but we will be looking at the options with MSP.
- The feedback from governors to parents has not been circulated, as they had requested. TM confirmed that the Chair of Governors will be sending a letter today to parents which will capture the presentation themes.
- Kit, particularly boys' kit. The state of kit is poor and children need more educating about looking after their belongings. With the introduction of new games kit, there was discussion about parents visiting changing rooms, however in the light of safeguarding advice, this will now not be possible.

JOH explained that we have been discussing and looking at quotes from September regarding introducing for A-C Form a coded padlock which would rule out things being taken from lockers (which could be rolled out to Lower School if successful). To avoid children forgetting their codes, there will be a master spreadsheet for staff. This will be alongside continuing to educate children. We want to avoid locking changing rooms so that children can gain access during break to get their trainers. We do random checks, but naming the outside of games kit is not possible now due to GDPR.

E Form:

- Will there be dates for summer camps? Jack Humphrey confirmed that details of the football, rugby and hockey course for A-F Form will be sent out to parents at the end of this week, and these will take place in the last week of the summer holiday. There will also be swimming courses, and externally organised tennis courses.

F Form:

- The locking of FMS due to behavioural issues – the feeling that closing a building to protect instruments is the wrong way to go about it as children who like to absorb themselves in music are prevented from doing this due to bad behaviour of others. Henry Marshall agreed that it is very important that children are able to practice in their free time and the issue has been staffing rather than behaviour. This will be shared with the new Director of Music going forward.

The first Year Group Reps meeting for the new academic year 2023-24 will be held on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**.

**Titus Mills**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2023**