

Parent Forum

Monday 28th February 2022

1. Staff members in attendance:
Mrs Lloyd, Mr Weller, Mrs Swain, Mrs Appleton
Governors – N. Stephens & Mr Collins

2. Main notes of the meeting:

Mrs Lloyd starts the meeting at 6pm and explains the purpose of the Parent Forum. She introduces the Senior Leadership Team and the Academy Council members: Mr Stephens & Mr Collins. Peter Collins is the new Stakeholder Community Champion for the school and replaces Mr Stephens who will move over to a different remit.

Mrs Lloyds reminds that this is an open forum for parents to contribute and shape how the meeting runs. Mr Stephens adds on how we can attract more parents to this forum, as most people contribute through Facebook but we would like to see more parents to attend this forum. Most parents who attended that it was felt it wasn't publicised enough this time around. The staff in attendance went through the ways this was communicated (parent newsletter, facebook and parent email). One parent speaks that perhaps the fact parents aren't coming is that they are happy with the school and have nothing to voice. Parents talk about perhaps adding an agenda so parents can see what is going to be discussed and another suggested a parent poll to check how parents would like this forum to run (certain times/days etc).

Another thought from a parent was to look at the Year 6's transition and explaining the idea behind the forum and the difference from the Primary school expectations from these evenings.

Mr Collins suggests a quiz night or something similar to bring parents into the school.

Mrs Lloyd gives an update on new staffing:

Mrs Jo Peck – SENCO

Mr Jon Blundell – Deputy SENCO

Mrs Louise Smith – Assistant SENCO

Mrs Donaldson – Teaching Assistant

Mrs Eardley – Teaching Assistant

Mrs Dixon – Cover Supervisor

Mr Murray – Site Manager

Mr Gilbert – Site Officer

Mr Morris – Leader of English (September start)

Mr Flint – Teacher of English (May start)

Mrs Walker – Leader of Art/Technology (Easter start)

Mrs Lloyd goes onto explain that we are receiving a much better calibre of candidates perhaps due to Ofsted and the reputation of the school changing.

Mrs Lloyd asks about any moans and groans from students on staffing.

One parent raises about the changeover in the English teachers.

Mr Weller explains the plan for this and how it is going to settle down by Easter with the new Head of English starting in September.

Admissions:

Mrs Lloyd explains that there have been 67 new applications since September. A parent asks about the impact of continuous new students staffing on the learning in the classroom. She suggests perhaps introducing new students once a week or a month to minimise disturbance.

Mr Weller talks about it being a legal obligation and the students need to be in school as soon as possible.

But Mrs Lloyd can acknowledge this frustration from the parent.

Funding

Mrs Lloyds explains what has been happening with the funding that has come from the government due to C-19.

This has been spent on Tutoring with certain students, a reading recovery programme and other interventions for all students. The impact of the last 2 years is now only coming out through their learning and mental health. We believe that we have looked after our students over the 2 years and this work is coming out in the wellness of the students.

Gym – Equipment is being currently purchased to support a staff/Student gym and over time we hope this is something that will be available to parents also.

Netball courts – funding is coming through with in line with Stamford Netball and CMAT.

4G pitch for football (section 106 money)

Science labs are being built next month which will see 2 new labs ready for September.

Covid 19

At the moment we are still abiding to the rules of isolating amongst staff, until the new guidance has come out from Dfe on how this should impact a school.

Questions:

Q1. It is normal for there to be different teachers for different parts of the subject?

Mrs Lloyd explains that in Science it works on a rolling programme, so the teaching also rotates. The English also can rotate due to the Literacy element of the subject.

Q2. Year 11 interventions

Mrs Swain explains about the reasons why the Year 11 interventions have been put in place. This was set up following the last data release and the teachers wanted to work with students to achieve their target. This intervention is for all year 11 students, but certain students will be asked to attend if they are seen to be behind their targets. There is also Room 30 open at lunchtime to allow them to do some independent work. A reminder that we are holding Easter revision session during the first week of the holidays. Once the Mock Exams are completed and results released, then the interventions will be reviewed.

Q3. Is staff wellbeing being considered along with the students.

Yes, we have a well being forum and we work with some of our external lettings that are giving taster sessions. We also complete regular surveys along with a support programme that gives financial assistance and counselling services.

Q4. Are the after-school events coming back?

Staff are now getting back into the habit of their session 6 events and we have the live performance coming up in a few weeks' time.

Q5. Are students expected to attend Session 6?

They are expected to attend but they are not forced to do so. It is a great opportunity for the students. Mrs Lloyd talks about visitors from another Trust, and they could not believe the number of students still in school working or playing sport.

Q6. Do the students need to be supervised if they need to stay after school?

The library is always open, but there are staff about to support the students who want to revise or practise. We would encourage students to notify staff should they wish to stay after school for any reasons.

Q7. When has the careers fair being rescheduled for?

This has now been confirmed as the 27th April and will be in school. All of the year groups get to visit it and then parents will be invited in for the evening to speak to some organisations. If any parents know of anyone who would like to come and have a stand, then please let Mrs Swain know.

Q8. What about work experience?

Yes this will be the 2nd last week of the Summer term. Mrs Swain explains this in more detail on how this will work in obtaining places for students. The students also need to support in finding these placements. This is for the current Year 10's.

Q10. School uniform supplier and parent's dissatisfaction.

Mrs Lloyd takes all of this on board and explains the school contractual obligation to this supplier. By making small adjustments to the uniform we are looking to bring down the cost of the uniform. Mrs Lloyd and Mrs Appleton will speak further with the current supplier to make the booking system more convenient for families.

Meeting closes at 7pm.