

LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 13th March 2013

Attendees:

Academy staff:-

Parents:

BRUNEL: -

CHAUCER: Sandy Taylor, Luisa Holmes, Jacqueline Ellis, Brad Langham, Michael Holmes, Ann Burch, Fiona Williams, Nick Williams, Mrs Jensen

DA VINCI:-

DARWIN: Jan Jennings, Lindsey Deakin

Apologies: Maggie Leah-Wilkinson

MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Michael welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent.

- **Minutes of previous meeting** – agreed.

- **Updates from previous meeting**

- Text to Parents working well.
- No reply yet regarding variety of lunch options for those on late lunch.
- Parent Pay still being worked on.
- Revision classes-letters sent.
- Regarding cyclists seen, no update. **Ask PF to update**

- **Members Questions**

- Food fights –food still being thrown. Recent cases.
- Still chaos in car parks when students being dropped off/picked up. No real solution
- Proposed McDonalds-after parent contacting council, seems crossing unlikely on Green Street Green Road - may have crossing on East side Princes Road however decisions made by KCC Highways, Highways Agency and Kent Police. School may consider contacting KCC Highways for crossing on GSG Rd maybe in collaboration with others i.e. Church opposite and businesses further down.

- Post 16 study leave-students to speak to Mr Hall and Year 11 who finish courses early and wish to take further courses must also speak to Mr Hall.
 - Class detentions still happening despite Principals advising they should not. Issue raised.
 - 492 bus issues-MH wrote to Bus Co twice and received only standard reply blaming roadworks as to why buses were turned back. However issues continue with buses sometimes late or cancelled.
 - New Brunel Vice Principal Mark Shepherd settling in well. Teaches french and the students like him.
 - Parents raised concerns over staff turnover. Some have said students had 3 different teachers for one subject since September. Some teachers stay only 2 years, some seemingly much shorter time. Is staff retention a problem? Are some teachers using The Leigh as a stepping stone for their careers? Parents have asked for figures on this and that issue is raised with the Principal for discussion at next Forum meeting. **Can MLW advise next meeting.**
 - OFSTED due soon. Jane Rowlands training as OFSTED Inspector.
 - Parents report that some students took a module exam for Business Studies but hadn't been taught the syllabus in the exam. Also that some students who are predicted to achieve B or C in any subject are only taught to achieve that level. **Principles to advise**
 - Year 7s do not seem to get a lot of homework yet some year 8 homework sometimes reaches manic levels. One college trialling for one module online homework. If successful will roll out to the other colleges.
 - Recycling shop-school to send text next time it is open. Date t.b.a. Intend to target year 6 induction day however presently most uniform held is larger sizes so donations needed. Could the June tutor day be a donation day? There were restrictions on where the poster could be placed in reception. Suggested free standing flip chart in entrance. Could Post 16s run the recycling shop, some to catalogue items others to put on web?
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- **Governors' update (from Ann Burch)**
 - Language options-4 for year 9. Spanish, Mandarin and Latin are being offered as subjects as well as french now. In options, a language is not compulsory however having a language is vastly beneficial to students.
 - To take the Baccalaureate a language and a humanities subject must be taken.
 - Criteria for school entry may change 2014/2015.
 - **Academics Standards Committee update (Ann Burch)**

- Trust schools are now working/communicating together. I.e. re modern languages-schools may loan teachers.
- Milestone School has a lot of unusual resources. They have funding for new buildings and resources for special needs children. May be able to offer Post 16s chance to learn about special needs and social issues.
- School looking at ways to increase Post 16 numbers. Currently at 80% capacity.

Meeting ended 8.20pm

Next meeting Monday 13th May 2013 Board Room.