

LEIGH ACADEMY PARENTS GROUP

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 26th September 2016

Attendees:

Academy staff:- Sharon Waterman-Trust Principal, Julia Collins-Principal, Faye McGill
- Principal

Parents:

BRUNEL: -Natalie Bayford, Kerry Bates, Alice Nolan, Derek Kennedy, Mandy Kennedy

CHAUCER: Kim Semple, Mo Jensen, Wendy Poole

DA VINCI:- Rebecca Harvey, Samuel Amo-Adjes, Lee Hopkins, John-Christian
Jacques, Sarah Hitchings

DARWIN: Jan Jennings, Bridget Busfield, Kain Busfield, Andrew Collins

Apologies:

MINUTES

• **Welcome and apologies**

Kerry welcomed everyone, introduced herself and Principals and explained how forum works. Thanked staff and Principals for fantastic exam results 2016.

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

• **Principals**

Mrs Sharon Waterman (SW) -Celebrating fantastic results. Presented chart showing 66% achieved A*-C in Eng & Maths, 64% 5 A*-C Inc. Eng & Maths. Chart will be in prospectus.

Miss Faye McGill (FM) - -2016 was the last year of the English IGCSE which gives credits to speaking and listening in English, current Y11 will not have these credits and exams changing this year.

Leigh achievements one of highest non selective schools, top of Dartford tree.

FM responsible for teaching and learning, ended year with 85% lessons judged as good or better, 30% outstanding.

23 new staff (4 newly qualified) and have not had to recruit from overseas/agencies, now fully staffed Inc. previous subject shortage areas.

Mrs Julia Collins (JC)-responsible welfare, behaviour and safety. Staff, parents & students survey conducted, results show 96% think child happy at school, large increase in this in all surveys. Students behaviour and welfare is very good

Looking at how do we get the message of The Leigh 'out there' and how do student gain resilience?

Explained how Parents' Forum best works for Principals.

Parents advised child plays football and teacher join in was really good.

• **Members Questions to Principals**

Q What measures are put in place for staff retention?

A Supporting staff, e.g. in maths & science -staff voice covering 5 areas- a survey re wellbeing e.g. more time to plan & mark, work life balance, counselling for staff, staff events, praise for staff. Staff volunteered to meet to support staff, continuing staff voice group this year, Inc. courses staff may wish to attend.

Q Show my Homework (SMH)-don't see enough?

A SMH online platform showing homework, to see what has been set and how much.

Q Issue SMH, clicked on ICT homework link and sent back to original page.

A Email teacher.

Q No texts received for letters issued last week.

A Will check this.

Q Y11 when will we get 6th form info?

A Thursday 29th September.

Q Y8 Options-timings?

A January 2017. See under parents' forum tab, see events listed.

Q Text alerts, can they be sent to both parents?

A Only first/lead mobile number receives texts, can ask for extra hard copies of any letters though.

19:10hrs Principals leave.

• **Forum discussion**

KB suggested changing name of Parents Forum. After many suggestions from group it was decided to be Leigh Academy Parents Group (LAPG). From now on, this is the name of the group.

KB wishes to modernise the group, and a closed Facebook group is to be investigated. JJ to email Principals to ask their permission and views and seek suggestions for rules etc. Would need rules e.g. no selling, no abuse, etc. To be a proactive, informative group. Plus, several admin who could monitor posts throughout day. Becky Harvey, Sarah Hitchings, John-Christian Jacques, Jan Jennings, and Kerry Bates have suggested to be some of the admin. We need a person to create the Facebook group.

LAPG were not emailed this time re this meeting, KB does not have everyone's email address (changeover of chair) and had some bounce backs on ones she did. Feel Facebook would avoid the need of emails.

Any advice regarding this would be welcomed by the group from both staff and parents.

LAPG would like a dedicated email address-JJ to ask school about this.

Mentioned conflicting information re LAPG on parents' forum tab. Mix of previous chair and previous one plus new times are 18:30hr. On minutes/agendas links, still has Fiona's details and on main info, still says 7pm.

Discussed whether we should raise money, if so do we need to registered, this is not our role. This subject ongoing.

Parents discussed lateness of pupils, parent was in reception early between 8:20 and 9:10 and many many pupils came in, some issued detentions, long queue.

Secondary school not like primary, cannot 'pop in' to see teacher. Teachers here can be emailed. Some make calls.

Present remarked is this typical of the numbers attending LAPG? It is, KB looking at ways to increase reaching parents. See FB disc. Other ideas welcomed.

. Members Questions .

Q Anyone here had any experience of UTC?

A None had.

Q Can group be included on school newsletter?

Q List of after school subjects (like maths etc.) when are they?

Meeting ended 8pm

Next meeting 6.30pm Monday 21st November 2016 Board Room.