

LEIGH ACADEMY

PARENTS GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017

Attendees:

Academy Staff; Julia Collins Principal, Faye McGill- Principal

Parents;

Brunel- Mandy Kennedy

Chaucer- Kim Semple

DA Vinci- Sarah Hitchings, Lee H

Darwin-Andrew Collins

Apologies- Jan Jennings

MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Kerry welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent

- **Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes read and agreed

- **Principals**

The Principals discussed upcoming examinations and the preparations that have been made to support all students in Year 11, 12 and 13 to achieve their very best, this has included a Final Count down evening after school and Saturday revision sessions. It has helped that exam boards have shared mock papers. Exam boards have reconsidered the grading system example given that a grade 4 is equivalent to a grade 'C'. It is expected that there will be an increase in GCSE grades and A level results look promising. There has been an increase in the number of learning walks which have been carried out by Directors of Learning looking at the standard of teaching. It was recognised that 10% of teachers needed extra support, 1-1 mentoring was put into place and improvements have been seen.

Academy Awards Day is planned during the last week in module 6, there has been over 50,000 rewards logged since September.

The attendance rate is currently 95.16%.

The academy try to limit the number of exclusions, it is noted that

there has been a slight increase recently. The academy is looking at what interventions can be put into place, looking at backgrounds and building on networks, using interventions and outside agencies.

Sharon Waterman has recently been promoted to Director of Education for The Leigh Academies Trust and as of September 2017 will be based in Strood Academy

The management structure is to change at Leigh Academy with Heads of College & Assistant Head of College being in each of the 4 Colleges with Admin and Student Services Manager remaining the same. Both Principals, Julia Collins and Faye McGill to remain as Academy Principals. The new Senior Leadership Teams have been advertised both internally and externally.

After consultation with staff, students and governors the Leigh are looking at adapting the structure and times of the Academy day. Recently in the report from the external review team 'Good to Great' it was viewed that the lessons were too long. The proposal is to move from 4 lessons of 85 minutes each day to 5 lessons of 60 minutes each day. With the exception of Wednesdays school will end at 3.15pm, this will create opportunities for staff to support students with after school clubs. A letter is being sent to all parent/carers and a consultation meeting planned. Parents at the meeting were asked that this information remains confidential until the letter is sent out.

There is a vacancy for a parent governor, letter will be coming out to all parents.

- **Members questions**

Q. Will the restructure of management staff be teaching in the classroom?

A. All Head of College and Assistant Head of Colleges will have hands on teaching.

Q. Some of the students have had other students using their card to purchase meals from the canteen?

A. There has only been 1 incident known of this taking place, the money was paid back and sanctions in place. Students are encouraged to speak to a member of staff if this happens.

Q. Inoculations are planned around the times of exams can this not be moved?

A. It is difficult to do this as they are planned around the availability

of nursing team, but will consider this in the future.

Q. Fidget cubes and spinners have been banned?

A. Students are only allowed these if they have a note from parents. Teachers are reporting that they are a distraction in class. Students should be encouraged to use a stress ball as these are less distracting.

Q. There is a rumour that there is a website you can access and by putting the school's postcode in will show how much funding the school is going to lose.

A. Unsure on this website however it is acknowledged that there have been cuts by the government, but the Leigh has been able to absorb these and have not had any redundancies and are able to keep the services on offer. The budget is not in deficit and plans are in place which the governors have agreed with. Staffing remains positive.

19.09 Principals leave

- **AOB**

Parents discussed the proposed changes to the school day, it is generally felt that this will be a positive move.

Rewards discussed and the way they are awarded, it was felt that this needed to be discussed with the Principals at the next meeting.

Meeting ended 19.30

Next meeting 18.30 Monday 19th June 2017 Board room.

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