

LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY PARENTS **COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 7th March 2011

Attendees:

Academy staff: Pete Finnegan – Principal, Chaucer

Parents:

BRUNEL: Chris Baker, Tracy Roblett, Mandy Kennedy, Dave Auty

CHAUCER: Jacqueline Ellis, Deborah Quinn, Sharon Coles, Ann Burch

DA VINCI: - Karen Brooker

DARWIN: -

Apologies: - Mo Jensen

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and noted.

1. Principal's Q & A

Pete spoke about the potential for expansion of the Leigh Academies trust into the primary school sector. He said that York Road is progressing with an application to become an Academy and the Leigh is in discussion with two other primary schools in the area. This will have an effect on the admissions criteria in future but no decisions have been made yet.

Reports are now on line for parents to access, everyone should have a password to access their own child's details. They are very pleased with the progress of yr11 and 6th form this year, and applications for 6th form are coming in. All 3 Academies have the same prospectus as it gives greater choice of curriculum and students may move between the 3 sites if needed. There is now a dedicated mini bus and driver to ferry them about.

Yr 7 offer letters have all gone out, with over 1000 applications at the Leigh for only 240 places there will be many disappointed. The other two schools in the Trust were also heavily subscribed this year.

A parent asked about the red amber and green system on the reports as she had not been able to get any response from an email she sent to the tutor. Pete briefly explained the system but suggested she contact the tutor again.

Darwin are advertising for a new Principal following Mark Poulter's appointment at Wilmington.

Sue Crocker is looking at new designs for the girl's blouses and would like a sub-group set up to work with her. Parents that volunteered for this were; Tracy Roblett, Debbie Quinn, and Ann Burch. They said that meetings held later in the day would be preferable if possible.

Pete Finnegan left the meeting as there were no more questions for him

1. **Minutes of previous meeting** - Agreed.

1. **Parent Governor update** – Dave Auty gave an update on the situation at the 3 Academies and said that the Federation (Trust) is doing well. Funding has been secured for Wilmington to allow some re-building but not as much as was originally hoped for due to the Government cutbacks. He announced that he will cease to be the Parent Governor at the end of this year his son leaves the Academy. Discussion will need to take place regarding a replacement for him.

1. **Any other business**

A parent asked if an explanation of the grading system for the reports could be put on the site as the progress can be confusing?

The re-cycling uniform shop is up on the website now, but it was suggested that flyers are needed to make parents aware. Gill Hickman is the staff link for this. It was also suggested that an article in the 'Leigh Life' publication would raise awareness of the shop.

Chris has obtained the figure in the Parent Council fund from David Watling – it stands at £1451.26. He advised her that it is under a separate heading within the budget, so we need to explore what it should be used for. David said that they need a new minibus which some of the money could help towards. Parents in the group felt that this was not what the fund was for and wanted to look at other possibilities. Chris also spoke to him about the School Fund and the ongoing issue of those not contributing by Direct Debit but making on payment in the first year then not being asked again? He said this was being addressed this year. There are also some employers who will 'match-fund' any contributions made by their employee to a charity. As the Leigh Trust is a charity a parent suggested that the school may be missing out on potential income.

Chris reminded everyone again that this would be her last year at the Academy, and that along with a new Chair, more parental involvement was needed for the group. When the new year 7s come in for the swap day, or parents meeting, we need some presence to make ourselves known. Volunteers would be needed from each college to facilitate this, and it could include information about the recycled uniform shop too. Could Principals advise us of the best way forward on this?

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Date of next meetings Monday 9th May 2011 and Monday 27th June 2011.