

LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

PARENTS COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 17th Jan 2011

Attendees:

Academy staff: Maggie Leah-Wilkinson – Principal, Da Vinci, Mike Turner, Vice-Principal, and Nina Somal – Student Services Manager.

Parents:

BRUNEL: Chris Baker, Tracy Roblett, Mandy Kennedy,

CHAUCER: Jacqueline Ellis, Deborah Quinn, Sharon Coles, Glenda Philpott, Tim Field

DA VINCI: - Karen Brooker

DARWIN: - Emma Isadorou

Apologies: - Ann Burch, Mo Jensen, Nikki Hall

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Principal's Q & A

Maggie remarked on the visits to maths lessons which have now taken place, and Chris's visit to the restaurant for lunch 4. There is no news on the replacement school blouses for the girls yet, but the names of those willing to help with the 're-cycled' uniform shop have been taken and they are being contacted to arrange a meeting with the staff.

The results for the year 11 mocks were given out in an assembly as if it were the real thing; some had actual maths results too and were seen to be encouraging for the students.

There is no additional information about the old site use, although at Christmas a parent reported a lot of activity and car park usage. Maggie asked that if anyone does see anything unusual around the site – particularly at weekends when the Academy is less used, they let the school know.

A parent asked about the Year 8 options this year. Maggie said that there could be some changes due to the new Government thinking on which subjects should be taken, but the timetables and groupings of subjects are being finalised now.

A parent remarked that she was pleased to be able to access her son's work and marking via the website, but she could also see other the information about other students. Mike Turner said this should not be the case so he will investigate the problem.

Mike said that it is probable that the reports for the module will also be available on line, access will be by ID numbers and a password which will be sent home. Additional things will be added after trialling, such as targets for students and attendance levels. It was noted that attendance and time off during school-time is tracked by Student Services staff.

Homework was discussed as some parents felt that younger students did not appreciate the need to do project based work as 'homework' and left it to last minute rather than do it over several weeks. A parent also asked that teachers instil into the students that on parent-teacher days work that is set for home needs to be done.

A parent asked about school trips that were cancelled due to the bad weather. These will be re-arranged where possible or refunded in full if not. In regard to the bad weather, Mike asked that parents ensure a plan is in place for their children should the Academy close at short notice.

Da-Vinci staff left at 7.50pm

3. Minutes of previous meeting - Agreed.

4. Parent Governor update – Chris had not had any information from Dave Auty, although he had indicated that he would come to the meeting.

5. Any other business

A parent reported back on her visit to the maths lesson in Darwin college, which she said she found overwhelming and found it difficult to see how the students concentrated. However, when asked if that seemed to be the case for the students, she said that they did not seem to mind. WE hope to arrange further visits to the other colleges to compare them with the Darwin experience.

Lunch 4 drop-in has been arranged but not yet taken place.

Chris still has to address the finance issues from previous meetings regarding the school fund giving and the Parent Council funds.

In the election of a Vice-Chair to replace Louise Oakley Tracy Roblett volunteered to take the post as the new representative. The nomination was seconded by Karen Brooker and Tracy was duly appointed. Chris reminded others that she would be standing down in the summer.

Chris reminded everyone that Lashing's cricket match is on Friday 1st July this year. Corporate tables for the lunch are available if anyone is interested, or spectators are welcome on the day for a small entrance fee.

Meeting closed 8.25pm

Date of next meeting 7th March 2011