

# LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

## PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Attendees:

Academy staff: Pete Finnegan, Chaucer College

Parents:

BRUNEL: Linda King, Natalie Bayford

CHAUCER: Sandy Taylor, Luisa Holmes, Jacqueline Ellis, Brad Langham, Tim Field, Michael Holmes, Sharon Coles

DA VINCI:

DARWIN: Jan Jennings, Lindsey Deakin

Apologies: Mo Jenson, Ann Burch

### MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Michael welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent.

- **Principal**

- PF advised Text to Parents commenced this week. Range of messages can be sent e.g. child not in school, letter sent home etc. Parents have been asked to ensure contact details are up to date.
- Reported a lack of variety in restaurant during lunch 4. PF had been advised that this related specifically to sandwiches. John Grafik (Business Manager) and Doreen Chaffe (Kitchen Manager) will monitor.
- Introducing Parent Pay is a priority for this year. Richard Spencer-Tanner (Finance Director) to introduce but no definitive date as yet.
- Youngsters reportedly seen on bikes cycling during day. PF to investigate. PF confirmed that The Academy is locked down during day, registers are taken each lesson, this should pick up absentees.
- English revision-letter sent about classes on Tuesdays but so far each lesson has been cancelled. **PFI to ask English to clarify**
- PF confirmed Principals happy with Parents' Forum meetings being held once per module.

**7.25pm Principal leaves meeting**

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

- **Updates from previous meeting**
  - Recycling Shop-Open 14<sup>th</sup> January 3-5pm and then 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in month. Need rota to run shop. JE & LD volunteered as Tracy stepping down. Tracy received good feedback on Tutor day. Prices £2 Blazer, £1 everything else. Could a letter be send home or a text from the school in addition to it being on web site? **Action – The Leigh**
  - Safety of children crossing roads with cars dropping off still an issue. There have been safety awareness assemblies for students
  - MacDonalDs opening behind Esso garage.
  - No further updates about parents paying School Fund.
- **Members Questions**
  - Food being thrown at lunchtimes. Academy monitoring.
  - Where do children spend break? In restaurant area and in the Crescent
  - Any news on study leave? Post 16 students need to meet with Mr Hall and request. All decisions based on student progress.
  - Whole class detentions not part of Academy policy. Parents to contact The Academy if they have any concerns about this. **PF to raise with other Principals**
  - What is frequency of parent tutor days? 2 per year.
  - 492 bus issues - TFL contacted & police informed. MH to send letter to TFL from Parents' Forum. **MH**
  - New Brunel Vice Principal appointed – Mr Mark Shepherd. He starts in January.
  - How are school trips scheduled? They are planned in advance and relate to the Curriculum. Julia Collins is The Leigh's Educational Visits Coordinator
  - Letters home requesting fee for trips/items vague about where to get items etc.
- **Governors' update**
  - MH did school visit fortnight ago in Chaucer. Saw 2 large Y7 classes with 3-4 teachers – classes working well. Pupils seemed to like the activities and were enjoying the classes.
  - School lost 9 maths teachers last year. School now fully staffed except 1 science and 1 humanities. Some maths groups now taught in smaller groups. The Leigh achieved excellent Maths results in 2012 with 75% of students getting a grade C. Students are expected to do even better this year.
  - School due OFSTED report. Criteria changed for grading schools. The bar has been raised yet again. OFSTED look at all aspects of school.
  - Frank Green has now secured the monies and school funds now healthy.
  - Leigh Trust looking for additional junior and secondary schools to join trust. Hartley Juniors is on its way.

- Dammi (head boy) working with mylta.com to have all coursework/homework on line.

Meeting ended 8.30pm

Next meeting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013 Board Room.