

LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 24th June 2013

Attendees:

Academy staff:- Sharon Waterman-Principal Darwin College
Stuart Lindars-Sports Director of Learning

Parents:

BRUNEL: -Natalie Bayford, Linda King

CHAUCER: Brad Langham, Fiona Williams, Sharon Coles, Sandy Taylor, Mo Jenson, Jacqueline Ellis, Luisa Holmes, Michael Holmes, Ann Burch.

DA VINCI:-

DARWIN: Lindsey Deakin, Jan Jennings

Apologies: Steve Jenson

MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Michael welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent.

- **Sports Director-Stuart Lindars**

- *SL gave a explanation of how the sports department is run. The following questions were then raised by members.*
- *Is there a cricket team for years 7 and 8? Yes but difficulties experienced because Hesketh Cricket Club now require payment for each time the pitch is used. Looking at liaising with Longfield and Wilmington but because of the build taking place at Wilmington, they only have one cricket pitch in use. Recent matches have been cancelled due to exams. Hoping for meeting Dartford Cricket Club and Bexley Cricket Club to resolve.*
- *There seems to be lack of communication regarding extra-curricular sports activities available and when fixtures cause students to return late. Extra-curricular clubs issued start of each module. Information is on the TV ground floor, Twitter (@slisports) and Facebook (Leigh PE). Y7 encouraged to participate. Re fixtures overrunning or going into extra time-students are always invited to use their phones contact parents or use staff mobiles if they don't have one. Students don't always take opportunity to phone parents. If child has an injury there is procedure to contact parents in place. School trip updates are fed through twitter. Hope to have twitter feed on main website.*

- *Why can't parent text or texts be sent?* Admin do the texts however as admin are not there later in day looking at other contacts to be able to send texts as well. School is looking at using texts more for smaller groups but with 1500 students this task is immense. Noted that sports clubs - there are 32 different sports at the Leigh-should be promoted more on website.
- *Sports day-Is it compulsory?* Yes minimum 2 track and 2 field events. This is because students are encouraged to participate, have a go. Taking place at Dartford Harriers-1st July Brunel, 2nd July Chaucer, 3rd July Darwin, 4th July Da Vinci from 9:30-15:30hrs. Those that cannot compete given roles-e.g. interviewing etc.
- SL notes an issue with PE kit particularly girls from year 9 onwards who have outgrown their initial year 7/8 track suit bottoms and tops and no longer find the look 'cool'. Girls are playing sports in freezing weather without any tracksuit stating they don't have one. The sports council issued a survey-the results were can there be an additional fleece/sweatshirt with Leigh logo retailing for approx. £20 that has that 'feel good factor' that can be supplied through The Leigh? This is being investigated. Girls preferred 'hoodies' but Principals did not like this style. Also considering changing polo tops to one colour with college logo on.
- *Are there trials for football team every year?* Yes September.
- *What about captains choosing squad?* Captains are given responsibility to find a squad to be managed by an older student. List is handed into sports office to oversee to ensure 'correct choices' have been made.
- Thank you Stuart for your attendance and answering the above questions. Should any member have any concerns please raise them with the sports department. Stuart asked the forum to consider changes to sports kit and left us with some feed back forms from the school sports council. This is covered later in the minutes.

7:40 Sports director leaves

- **Principal**
 - SW gave a update on The Academy covering the following points: Ofsted-very pleased with content and how written. We were given excellent comments for many points. English and Maths were outstanding for achievement. Leadership graded 1 (outstanding). Showing steering Academy in right direction. We are expecting fantastic results this summer with 70% students getting A*-C including maths. Now planning for next year with points Ofsted raised.eg quality of marking and feedback, all students to be given opportunity to respond (work already begun on this), identify learners needs-special

education which featured positively in report. Review of home learning-plan coincides with virtual learning. Unsure of timing of next Ofsted report-maybe 2 year cycle which would be good.

- Maggie Leah-Wilkinson (Principal-Da Vinci) retiring this summer. Taken opportunity to review senior posts. Faye McGill currently Deputy Head of school in Maidstone is to be new Principal for Da Vinci. A transition is in progress. Simon Beamish (Principal at Longfield Academy) to transfer to Leigh as Principal Chaucer, Kevin Brewer (VP-Darwin) to become VP Chaucer. Julia Collins (VP Chaucer) to become VP Darwin. Pete Finnegan (Principal Chaucer) to transfer as Principal at Longfield. All considered strong VP and P. Lot of P & VP changes at the school and in the trust. Mark Poulter will be leaving Wilmington at the end of this academic year. We wish him every success in his new headteacher role.
- Congratulations to Frank Green who has been awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.
- Recent productions-Sound of Music and Aladdin.
- Following on from the meeting with Principals 3rd June Michael and Fiona had the following points were made:
- *Turnover of teachers with concerns it can affect child's grades. Together with different teachers teaching different methods in maths.* Says HMI previously criticised school for teaching one method when there are many. Better to teach maths in number of ways. Did have high turnover in maths but from September will have strong maths team. From KS4 maths are regrouped. Some teachers skilled at A* some more skilled getting students from D to C.
- *Module report-If students exceed there KS target are the targets readjusted?* Yes. There are a minimum 9 sublevels but most have 11.
- *Early exams-* students are advised early of this. Some Y9 taking exams because course changing and exams need to be banked. GCSE results 22nd August and A levels the week before.
- *Class disruption during maths test conditions-* Email College VP and student services officer.
- *September update of national curriculum-* Y8 will have new exams in Y10. Same content likely so Y9 relevant and they develop skills to take linear exams.
- *Text/email not received when child not in school-* currently email system not working affecting the text system. SW to investigate
- The Principals have agreed that during the year 7 introduction that more emphasise will be given to the difference in the colleges set up, with regard to merit systems, home work and how the sports department organise the extra curriculum activities/inter school matches.

8:10 Principal leaves

- **Minutes of previous meeting** – agreed.
- **Updates from previous meeting**
 - Class disruption in Chaucer seems improved with groups broken up.
 - Mr Slater Maths teacher Chaucer leaving
 - Homework-each college has its own philosophy
- **Members Questions**
 - Parking/drop off-pedestrian gate shut at exit gate causing students to squeeze past cars instead of safely on path.
 - From September maybe cars entering site could turn left instead of right (except for disabled).
 - Suggestion could Princes Park be approached so parents could wait in their car park to pick up (some parents do this already)
 - Clothes recycling-on Y6 introduction day. Parents forum leaflets to be handed out.
 - No news on parent fund, MH to contact Finance director.
- **Governors' update**
 - Ofsted reports –not many negatives in the Leigh Ofsted.
 - York Road going well.
 - Milestone outstanding and doing exceptionally well
 - Wilmington has been ranked “Good” in their recent OFSTED inspection, great progress has been made at this school.
 - Mr Beamish and Miss Rowlands training to be Ofsted inspectors
 - UTC (University Technical College) to be built on The Bridge, development site, Bob Dunn way, Dartford. Planning submitted and in consultation period. UTC for ages 14-19 specialising in Engineering and Computer Sciences in partnership with Greenwich University and local businesses.
 - Opening in 2014, students will be able to enroll for Years 10 & 12, building up to Years 10-13 the following year. More information on www.theleighutc.org.uk
 - There is a UTC shop in Bluewater

Meeting ended 9:10.pm

Next meeting Monday 23rd September 2013 Board Room.