

LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 17th March 2014

Attendees:

Academy staff:- Sharon Waterman-Principal Darwin
Kevin Brewer-Principal Brunel
Matteo Stamato-PE
Lesley Tannock-Leigh Trust Careers Advisor

Guests: Rob Keane-SWI Sports Clothing

Parents:

BRUNEL: -Natalie Bayford, Linda Kind, Alice Nolan
CHAUCER: F Williams, L Holmes, S Coles, M Holmes, B Langham, Jacqueline Ellis, Ann Burch, Mochila Belar
DA VINCI:-Sarah Hutchings, Karen Brooker, Helen Reed
DARWIN: Jan Jennings, Andrew Collins

Apologies:

MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Michael welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent.

- **Matteo Stamato-PE**

- Leigh looking at suppliers for new PE Kit. Currently students not receptive to present kit particularly from KS4 onwards. Looking for better quality material and style and to move with the times. New kit will be black with colleges on chest badges. The new kit should look professional and be longer lasting. Currently students are trying out the kits and the sports council is the voice for students preference.

- **Rob Keane-SWI Sports Clothing**

Rob came along to represent SWI Sports Clothing, one of the 3 suppliers (others Falcon via Brigade, and Innovation) for forum to sample SWI kit. Rob asked parents what we thought of the samples. He said it was highest quality fabric, hardwearing, washes well, doesn't lose shape and won't fade. The items are made in Far East and SWI have a Fairtrade policy. A set of sizes can be left at the school for trying on.

SWI anticipate holding 4 x more stock and could supply within 2-5 days. SWI would prefer to supply online/phone direct to customer. They use City Link

and can have a 'safe place' specified for delivery. Possible they can deliver to school for collection by parents. Parents feel lot of parents prefer to have choice to purchase in shop i.e. Longfield Wools in Gravesend or online. RK explained whilst that is also possible, he cannot control what stock a shop holds, the price may be higher in shop due to a shop overheads and that they have a standard trade price. To have the college badge on clothing rather than generic Leigh badge may make price a little higher. Principals are keen to keep college identity on kits. This is something school needs to decide. Parents stressed need for choice of methods to purchase-online and shop.

07:30pm RB leaves meeting

- **Matteo Stamato-PE**

Other samples have been supplied from Falcon Sportswear with a newer material which doesn't fade which Brigade would stock. 7-14 days supply estimate. Parents raised concerns about supply issues they currently experience with Brigade.

Innovation left supplies, this is same style as present kit but black. Fear was raised of fading.

Parents forum preferred SWI samples as better quality garments but with both buying options. School to see what students prefer.

Question-there is old kit (previous to the current style) in recycling shop, what should be done with it. MS says he can use it for spare kit or via Rugby Trust can be sent for use abroad.

Parent advised jumpers are scratchy. SW to note.

Cricket Leigh does not play at home, always away. Would like cricket to be the summer sport. Cost is about £80 a time. If we had own pitch, there is a cost of maintaining plus need to allow 3 hours for a cricket match. Leigh has space for pitch but the space is strange shape and not suitable for cricket pitch. Sharing with other school would have transport issues and the cricket white may be an issue for parents.

Athletics is very strong here.

07:50 MS leaves meeting

- **Lesley Tannock-Leigh Trust Careers Advisor**

Started September and works for four schools in trust. Year 11 can request one to one interview with LT and Principals or VP can refer students. Now working with Post 16s. The Leigh website is under reconstruction so Careers area details can be obtained at present from Longfield and Wilmington Academies. On those sites is a section for students looking to study abroad, gap years. Each year group would like a page and student finance will be

added on 2nd phase of web. Had National Careers week here. Advice incorporated in assemblies about apprenticeships and Leigh will have UTC from September 2014. Years 7,8 and 9 will start receiving careers advice in June and encourage them to research different careers.
June for year 10s to prepare for options for summer i.e. post 16, apprenticeships, preparing students before year 11.
Looking at what hidden career items could be delivered in normal curriculum i.e. CVs in ICT.
July careers convention-Y10 will be invited from all academies.

Q-Has LT visited Post 16 yet?

A-Not yet but students can request one to one session. Email address on Longfield and Wilmington website.

Q-Post 16 no help in completing CVs or help in applying for uni.

A-Careers audit needs completing to see what is being delivered. Post 16 do have UCAS application help from tutors.

Q-How will students be invited?

A-By letter

Q-Would you get past students to give careers advice?

A-Yes

08:10pm LT leaves meeting

- **Kevin Brewer-Principal Brunel**

New website under construction. Will be tabbed. Emma Winton is the graphic designer. Ideas are requested for the parent forum area. MH & FW to organise mini meeting for this.

Parents suggested 'hot topics' on front page or rolling news banner and that site should follow three click rule. Could school receive data about the website so that current popular pages have a link on home page which would be updated frequently.

Parents suggested a text alert to all parents prior to next forum meeting. KB requested to be given details to take forward.

Asked if parents forum should have own email address to avoid MH using personal email. Possible.

VLE-Virtual Learning Environment-look at September with the roll out of new devices, could see homework details online.

Newsletter-Academy has newsletter every 2 modules. Opportunity for parents forum to reach out to more parents and also recycling shop. Paragraphs to be inserted.

Lunchtime changes-Trialled for 2 and half weeks, didn't work well enough. Congested restaurant and couldn't make it work. Taking for Cucina affected

and students not as settled in lesson 3. Students consulted, negative feedback. Now looking at making the 4 college lunches being more robust.
Car park-John Grafik reviewing car park, speed bumps, entrance barrier and CCTV being considered. Parents forum previous gave some proposals to John Grafik for this.

Lashings-Encouraging corporate bookings to build event. Need 2 persons to sell raffle tickets in ground in afternoon.

- **Sharon Waterman-Principal Darwin**

Academy day changes-consultation taken place and now closed. Changes take effect September. Buses can accommodate this.

Q-Is information about proposed timetable changes on website?

A-Yes

Q Text alerts, why can't they be sent to both parents if parents not together?

A-Can only pick up first number. Website has letters, advised check website.

Q-There is issue with Go bus on a Friday-child cannot get dropped off

A-SW taken details.

Parent pay-Will be implemented module 5. Can add funds online and also via a shop

IT-governors committed £1/2 million to refresh I.T. Tablet research ongoing roll out Sept 2014. Looking at assistance for disadvantaged children.

Sports relief on Friday.

08:50 SW leaves meeting

08:55 KB leaves meeting

- **Members Questions/comments**

Following on from Lesley Tannock-Leigh Trust Careers Advisor, parents feel that help in Job application letters, CV and Uni applications should be given priority.

Q-Is the recycled uniform list on website?

A-Yes but it hasn't been updated. Recycle shop needs a clothes rail still.

Q-Some parents reports rise in number of whole class detentions.

A-Ethos of school is against class detentions. Parents urged to email teacher and copy in director of learning for that subject for that college and the student services manager for the college.

Q-Y10 Parent reported no homework. Home work seems erratic. Is there an academy wide homework policy? If parents are concerned who should they email?

A Colleges have been diverse in homework but are coming together and some students have e-learning and complete tasks online maybe in tutor time. Can principals answer these questions?

- **Governors' update**

No board meeting held.

Q-Colleges have 2 governors each-where would parents find this information?

Meeting ended 9:25.pm

Next meeting Monday 12th May 2014 Board Room.