

LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 25th November 2013

Attendees:

**Academy staff:- Sharon Waterman-Principal Darwin
Simon Beamish-Principal Chaucer**

Parents:

BRUNEL: -Natalie Large, Linda King, Chris Froude

**CHAUCER :Sandy Taylor, Sharon Coles, Nicola Williams, Fiona Williams,
Jacqueline Ellis, Ann Burch**

DA VINCI:-Sarah Hutchings, Karen Brooker

DARWIN: Jan Jennings

Apologies: Lindsey Deakin, Mo Jenson, Michael Holmes

MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Fiona Williams chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent.

- **Principals Simon Beamish and Sharon Waterman**

- Results of recent Ofsted style survey for parents/carers are now on the web. 400-500 replies. Positive feedback. Q6 regarding homework less positive but no data to show if parents think it is too much or too little. Q7 (behaviour) positive except one or two points. Q8 and q10 (response bullying/response to concerns) lot of 'don't knows' again no data to say whether this is just because hadn't been experience by that parent.
- I.T.-Some PCs been struggling due to server problems logging in but now back to working standard. The I.T. in Leigh coming to end of its cycle. Currently in year 6 of 7 year expected lifespan. I.S. Steering Group planning to sign off changes for Sept 2014. Longfield, York Rd, and Wilmington have mobile devices. Future I.T. not desk based, staff will be trialling various devices this side Xmas. Hardware will need replacing and infrastructure aiming Sept 2014, cost a factor. Nothing firm yet.
- Academy results-Module 1 forecast for summer 2014, Leigh is hoping for the best results in their history despite changes to performance tables.

- Open events for 2014 year 7, numbers high again, 2000 visitors over the two days. Students were good tour guides. Videos shown to give flavour of what it is like in Leigh.
- Post 16-170 externals-increase of 20 from last year.
- UTC-on The Bridge opening Sept 2014 for Y10 and Y12 specialising in engineering and computer science in association with Kennards.
- Previous instability of staff numbers esp. engineering and maths now resolved. Everything is done to ensure staff retention. Staff numbers more stable now than last year.
- Working on greater staff cohesion i.e. consistency, tracking, learning more consistent across the Academy with weekly briefings. There is a Leigh Inclusion Team for most vulnerable students, sharing practice across colleges. Good use of rewards and consequence system. By end module 3 this will be rolled out across all colleges.
- Sporting-Rugby teams going well. Leigh hosted cross country run with 17 schools attending. The Leigh is pleased a number of students have links with local sports clubs and are allowed to wear those ties in school.
- Dance show-There was a one night only performance where all the dancers came together again.
- PE Uniform-Alternative tracksuit/jacket being sourced and one colour shirts. Rugby/football boots mainly required Sept to Easter.
- Attendance- Have an attendance welfare officer and Leigh's attendance is above the national 95% target. Attendance leagues are published in school with college premierships and top 20 tutor groups.
- Severe weather-Intended that severe weather information/letter to be online and parents will receive text alert to advise to check web. School will be in constant contact with bus companies. Advice to parents during bad weather, write contingency plans (e.g. going to another child's home) for your child in their planner if you could be unable to collect your child yourself as school won't release children early to an unknown destination unless parents prior authority is received. Planner best solution.
- 6th form-in next two weeks they will sign in electronically.

7:35pm SW & SB leave meeting.

- **Minutes of previous meeting** – agreed.
- **Updates from previous meeting**
 - Y9 Business gone through two teachers since September. Contact Mr Hancock Director of Learning for Business.
 - Wilmington Academy opened 25th November. Impressive build. Still building sports hall however they have capacity to expand school in future.

- UTC- road and car park in two weeks ahead of schedule. Open evenings are currently taking place. It will be a longer day at UTC but a no homework policy. 60 places per year.
- Parking still bad in mornings. Previous minutes- MH to have meeting-no update.
- School uniform supply-no problems reported.
- **Members Questions**
 - Will there be cricket indoors? Maybe with nets-SW to enquire.
 - Extra-curricular clubs (not PE) difficult to find on wen-SB to check.
 - Why can there not be 4 parent governors (one associated with each college) instead of 2?
 - Uniform shop? It opened but wasn't broadcast so not attended. What is best way forward? Maybe list items held on web and price plus a contact number. Parents then can contact to purchase and collect.
 - What has happened to Parent Pay? Could this be linked to the I.T. upgrade? Would be welcomed by parents. Could John Grafik attend a meeting or be asked?
- **Governors' update**
 - Board meeting deferred until December. MH may attend as AB unable. No agenda yet.
 - AB seen Brunel-all seems ok
 - UTC underway
 - There may be a parent/governor vacancy coming up. There are 2 parent/governors.

Meeting ended 8.10.pm

Next meeting Monday 27th January 2014 Board Room.