

# LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

## PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013

### Attendees:

Academy staff:- Simon Beamish - Principal Chaucer College  
Faye Mc Gill – Principal Da Vinci

### Parents:

BRUNEL: -Linda King, Chris Froude, Shashi Froude

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

DA VINCI:- Sarah Hitchings, Karen Brooker

DARWIN: Lindsey Deakin, Drew Collins

Apologies: Jan Jennings, Dee Mangat.

### MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Michael welcomed everyone and introduced himself and others to the new members attending for the first time. Apologies given for those absent.

Michael introduced Simon Beamish and Faye Mc Gill and handed over to them for a update on school matters.

- **Simon Beamish**

- SB introduced himself and Faye to all as the new Principals as both had taken over the roles for the new year.
- SB gave a update on the school and how pleased they were with the exam results of 63% 5A-C including English and Maths for GCSE and 33% A level reaching A or A\* grades.
- They are working on the “Good” Ofsted report and prioritising the issues raised by Ofsted.
- The colleges are working towards standardising the reward schemes and parents are encouraged to monitor their children through the ePortal system. 3 Colleges are all working the same in respect of Consequences and Rewards.
- Home learning is being monitored through the school and the aim is to standardise all the colleges for how and when home learning is issued.
- SB was asked about the parent fund and he will look into it. MH to forward emails he has sent to Richard Spencer-Tanner.

- 16<sup>th</sup> October Parent Tutor day, all parents to book an appointment for that day. The school is closed, but learning is set for every student.
  - SB informed the group that at present a teachers' strike is planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> October and they have an indication that a large number of staff will be on strike and the school may close on that day.
  - SB/FMG were asked about the exam results being lower than Longfield and Wilmington, as the Leigh was thought to be the flag ship and highest achieving school in the Trust. SB explained that the figures were not an exact like for like due to percentages of students and courses taken. The exam results the Leigh obtained were slightly down on the predicted results but still were the best results achieved to date.
  - SB was asked about Parent Pay. It is being looked into with the aim to get the school on board.
  - Parents asked about Post 16 study space. An area in the library is allocated for students and as the course progress students will have more work to do and this often is done in classes/studios/workshops.
  - Post 16 will have new swipe cards to allow them to swipe in and out instead of signing in each time.
  - Parents asked about teacher retention-SB said it is a concern but that retention this year had been the best ever, it still needs to be improved, they are working on this as a priority. There are less overseas trained/fixed term contract/agency teachers than in the past, so visa issues can be minimised.
  - Parents were concerned about the Engineering teachers being off. The head of Engineering has been in hospital but is due back next week.
  - Members thanked Simon and Faye and they left the meeting at 8.15pm.
- **Minutes of previous meeting – agreed.**
  - **Updates from previous meeting**
    - Chaucer is much improved – parents have had good reports from children.
    - Year 7 appears to be settling in well.
    - Parking is still an issue, MH to arrange a meeting with John Grafik to discuss. With regard to parking it has been suggested/agreed that it would be a good idea to make turning right when entering the school a No Entry except Disabled/Taxis/Staff etc. The first turning on the left into the car park currently a NO Entry to be moved to the other end so cars can enter the school and turn right into both parts of the car park and exit as existing.
    - Parents are happy to have a new sports kit introduced slowly ie new tops and tracksuits especially for the interschool competitions'. One colour is a good idea.

- **Members Questions/discussions**

- Parent Concerns over the Engineering and lack of staff, as not teacher for the first few weeks of school.
- There are problems with school uniform supply and items not being delivered in time for the new year. There is also a concern over the jumpers being poor quality and students refusing to wear them. Principals to advise who this should be raised with?
- Year 7 parents were asked to supply football boots for a student's but on starting PE the students were told boots are only required if in the school teams? The same apparently applied to the Rugby tops. These are expensive items that have been brought unnecessary. Clarification required from PE department on requirements.
- **Uniform Clothes recycling would like to open the shop on 15<sup>th</sup> October 3pm-5pm. Fiona and Jacqueline to run shop. Can Admin be advised the shop is active and will open once a month with a list of items on the web site. Would the school be able to change banner on website to show shop is opening on the 15<sup>th</sup>, put it on twitter and facebook, also for the first time opening could a text be sent to all parents on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> October? MH to forward list of items available to SB to be put on web site under the Parent forum recycle tab.**

- **Governors' update**

- Ann Burch has attended the Academic Standards meeting.
- They are pleased with the GCSE and A level results and again discussed the differences across the trust.
- Next Leigh governors meeting on 21 November.

Meeting ended 8:45.pm

Next meeting 7pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Board Room.