

LEIGH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 12th May 2014

Attendees:

Academy staff: - Kevin Brewer-Principal Brunel

Parents:

BRUNEL: -Linda King, Alice Nolan

CHAUCER: Sharon Coles, Fiona Williams, Nick Williams, Luisa Holmes,
Michael Holmes, Sandy Taylor

DA VINCI:-Sarah Hutchings, Karen Brooker

DARWIN: Andrew Collins, Jan Jennings, Lindsey Deakin

Apologies: Ann Burch

MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Michael welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent.

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

- **Kevin Brewer - Principal Brunel**

PE KIT- School chosen kit from SWI Sports. Good quality kit, it will be black with college badges on chest. Trying to get 2nd supplier-Brigade or Longfield Wool. Need solution by Y6 induction day.

RECYCLE SHOP- Old PE kit (the current one) will be useful as back up. It is better that student s wear old kit than not do PE. Kit prior to today's current kit will be sent to Africa via the partner school link Milestone has with Africa. Clothes rail-one should be received this week.

CAREERS- Lesley Tannock (careers) has attended post 16 assembly so all post 16s have opportunity for one to one meeting with LT.

UCAS statement- looking to restructure pastoral support system. Y11-13 and Y7-10 groups. Both groups have different needs and tutors with best skill sets for each group selected. Change should be for the benefit for all. To be looked at mid module 6 and implemented Sept 2014.

RESULTS- record results are expected this year.

PARENT PAY-Training complete, one parent to trial a payment. As soon as it works a letter will go out to parents. Ready to go.

WEBSITE-Final meeting with Emma Winton & KB 13th May and within 10 days website will go live. Still a work in progress but should follow 3 click rule.

Y11 Won North Kent Cup

MOBILE DEVICES- Apple iPad (mini or standard) chosen on a buy and lease program. Week beginning 19th June will be parent consultation evening. Hire scheme and costs will be available. Questions can be answered and Y6 parents will be invited after Y6 induction day.

July – three training sessions by Apple, Aug/Sept-professional development time for teachers, end Sept –device roll out (dependant on the IT refresh).

IT- During summer break an IT refresh will take place, major works as problems with current IT system. But after refresh should be 'all singing all dancing' in technology. Apples on plazas will go into classrooms. A set of school owned iPads will be available for students to borrow but not take home. Parents concerned about security-insurance done by school or included in hire-Longfield Academy students will be at parent evening to share their experiences. Apps will be purchased by school and pushed out.

- **Members Questions to Principal**

Q Problems with current IT but students doing IT exam facing tech difficulties. Why has it taken this long to sort out?

A Difficulties acknowledged. Cost and research taken a long time to assess what the problem is.

Q Academy Business Challenge-is it going ahead this year?

A No, looking to replace it with something else/in different guise as it has been difficult to get businesses on board.

Q What happened about Principal for Chaucer?

A After a robust 2 day process, Joe Swash has been appointed. Currently deputy head of Cranbrook School.

Q What is position re turnover of staff?

A Lost some staff to UTC and other schools. September position will be same as previous years, however maths, science and English is secure. Accept the turnover is too high; it is ok but not good as school would like. Overseas teachers cost lot of money through agencies. Although this is an option if

needed. Business currently has issues, but prior has had no turnover for seven years but now going through changes.

Q Statistics-Is it a new subject?

A Is a bolt-on to maths but a standalone exam. For the amount of work done in maths, students can get an extra GCSE in Statistics without detriment to maths. This is new course. Y10 doing statistics exam this year.

Q What languages are on offer?

A French and English. School is happy with how modern foreign languages are performing.

Q Options-when will students know?

A No date yet. Timetabling issues. Aim to give students first choices.

7:50pm KB leaves meeting.

FW had meeting re parents forum area on new website. Similar headings to now with 3 click rule and links to more things. Newsletter will be accessed via website.

Class detentions- parents report improvements.

- **Governors' update**

AB visited Brunel end April, inc learning walks in maths and attended assembly. FW to visit Chaucer next week.

- **Academics Standards Committee update**

Next meeting scheduled 15th May.

- **Chairman update**

Tonight is chair Michael Holmes last meeting and he was thanked by parents for his dedication. VC Fiona Williams was appointed Chair at meeting. New VC required. Next meeting vote in new VC. Need good attendance for last meeting.

- **Members Questions**

Q Some parents report concern about receiving texts about their children not being in school although they are. The students report names being put in piece of paper and not being aware hence texts. Bits of paper seems haphazard. Why not electronic. Serious implication-What about role call in a fire situation? Plus causing great worry for parents.

Q Parents concerned about turnover of staff and implications on students.

Q Parent concerned that IT students report difficulties with IT whilst due to take imminent exam. Reported to teacher but teacher seemed unconcerned.

Q Car park-update required.

Q PE Kit-update required.

Year 6 induction day Thursday 10th July-parent forum leaflets need handing out.

Meeting ended 8.20pm

Next meeting Monday 7th July in Board Room.