

LEIGH ACADEMY PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 14th March 2016

Attendees:

Academy staff: - Faye McGill Principal Chaucer & Darwin, Julia Collins Principal Da Vinci and Brunel

Parents:

BRUNEL: -Natalie Bayford, Kerry Bates, Max Pearson

CHAUCER: Jacqueline Ellis, Kim Semple, Sarah Jones, Fiona Williams

DA VINCI:-Sarah Hitchings, Julie-Anne Rodgers, Stacy Goodwin

DARWIN: Jan Jennings, Philippa Cromanty, Bridget Busfield, Kain Busfield

Apologies: Sharon Waterman-Trust Principal, Paula Fuller, Nicola Maffei, Wendy Poole

MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Fiona welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent.

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

- **Principals**

JC-Admissions 2016 over 900 applications received. 240 students will be starting Y7 in September. The 2017 admission process will be as is now.

Asked parent forum thoughts on the Saturday open days-can they be improved? Discussed later in minutes

SENCO-coffee morning successful.

6073 rewards given out and 561 consequences. Consistently applied.

Attendance 95.53% (Nat Target 95%). Persistent absence is lowest in Leigh amongst trust.

JC advised info from SW in her absence that 60% expected to achieved A-C inc Eng. & Maths in 2016. Y11 meeting 16th March on how to revise, sessions in Easter holidays. 60% of Y11 pupils got grade C or above already (early entry to exams).

FM-Concentrating on teachers requiring improvement and improving teacher program and support program Now only have 9 teacher requiring improvement which is good. 3 teachers are leaving.

Questions raised at previous meeting:

Re homework not set on parent/tutor day-looking to make better and looking at homework in general (Kevin Brewer).

Staff retention-Caroline Cheverton retiring at Easter and one teacher moving to primary school.

Re incident re math teacher and subsequent reaction to complaint-teacher in program to improve.

Re short notice of recent parent/tutor day-apologies, trust had tried to book another opportunity for some students but it didn't come off so tutor day went ahead instead.

Re when is the next Ofsted due? The Academy is above floor targets and preparing to get OFSTED ready.

Paper planner-being revisited-looking at cheaper version in hard copy

Parents advised the Y10 teacher meetings held February was good and suggested Y9 would benefit and maybe other years. Yes Y9 proposed in summer. Regarding other years-difficulty fitting that in.

Teacher training-are you doing this? Yes still keeping elements of this in Leigh learning cycle.

Parents showed social media site in public domain found linked to paedophiles but aimed at teenagers-what should parents do if hear of such a site?

Advise the school-which can block sites from their internet. School has talks about internet safety.

If rewards not being updated? Email tutor.

7.30pm principals leave.

● **Matters arising**

Schools PE uniform list discussed at forum- on a practical basis parents request the following adjustment be made because of cost and this theme crops up every year:

Boys: Training top be optional, football boots, football/rugby socks, shin guards and gum shields be advised by staff once pupils commence when they need them. Some are not required for September and some pupils never wear them at all.

Girls: Fleece to be optional, Again football socks, football boots, shin guards and gum shields be advised once pupil start and only if needed. Many parents have purchased these for them never to be used for a variety of reasons.

Uniform recycling shop-Jacqueline Ellis is unable to do afternoons due to other commitments offers of help welcome. Can still contact Jacqueline in first instant for any uniform requirements.

FW advised will stand down in 2016/2017 due to commuting issues. Nominations welcome.

Views on Saturday open days-parents feel they are very business-like and parents would like to see the school 'working'. They feel Longfield and Wilmington's open days are far better, allowing parents to walk round freely, see science experiments taking place etc. Parents feel this school has really good facilities and does not show case them well e.g. the restaurant and so on. If Leigh could model its open days like Wilmington and Longfield and show off its facilities in action more would help them to stand out against the competition. Parents of current year 7 commented that the Leigh open day was the least liked and the least effective.

Long discussion about general grading and contextual evaluation data of schools available to educators. Disappointment from parents about the decline in the Leigh's GCSE results.

- **Governors' update**

York Road is expanding and has good results. Disc on CCTV security at Leigh.

Additional meeting for Governors on understanding and using contextual data and how OFSTED use the data. Enables SLT and Governors to prepare for aspects OFSTED may focus on based on the data.

- **Members Questions**

Parents feel school should be stricter with children re dress, hair colour, nail varnish etc. Not all teachers are consistent and discipline should be applied consistently.

Ingredients for cooking-at Longfield and Wilmington they pay for ingredients via parent pay saving the student from bring this in. is this something Leigh will do?

Parent pay-Parents see various items on the list to pay for which do not apply to their child i.e. dance uniform and USA ski visit-can items be more specific to students?

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.Meeting ended 8.35pm

Next meeting 7pm Monday 9th May 2016 Board Room.