

LEIGH ACADEMY PARENTS GROUP

Minutes Of meeting held on Monday 16th January 2017

Attendees:

Academy staff:- Faye McGill-Principal, Sharon Waterman-Trust Principal

Parents:

BRUNEL: -Kerry Bates, Alice Nolan, Natalie Bayford

CHAUCER: Kim Semple

DA VINCI:-Sarah Hitchings, Julie-Anne Rodgers, Lee Hopkins

DARWIN: Jan Jennings, Andrew Collins

Apologies: Julia Collins-Principal, Mandy Kennedy

MINUTES

- **Welcome and apologies**

Kerry welcomed everyone and gave apologies for those absent.

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

- **Principals**

Series of consultants came into school re OFSTED year to give external verification, look at progress in year and OFSTED:

Behaviour report-both days revealed high standard and attitude to learning very positive, sense of flow and purpose, rewards and consequences fully embedded. Attended number of lessons, looked at attendance and also exclusions. Student and staff morale very high. Had only minor recommendations.

Conducted learning walks, had one-to-one with Principals, teachers (all ranges), found especially good learning in many subjects, good and challenging work in P16, good review learning and teaching.

OFSTED safeguarding-safeguarding give high priority by Leigh, students felt safe and could approach staff, arrangements for pastoral care, expectations clear. Raising profile of literacy. Only minor recommendations e.g. coloured stickers on filing etc.

Principal's report 3&4 February review and walk across site, meet students including those with previous fixed term exclusions who spoke positively about the interventions and support they had received.

Positive press about literacy, football academy etc. on social media. Also look at Leigh TV on website.

- **Updates from previous meeting from Principals**

Q Work experience-can school help find places?

A Yes, Sally Phelps can be found on Chaucer Wintergarden at break times, can and has helped many. Places found by combination of parent's connections, staff connections, students finding own places and Sally Phelps. Parents shared good experiences, and Principals advised where parents/students should go to gain help.

Q If a student's grade goes down can teachers please do one line comment as to why on the 6 weekly reports

A There are set times (twice yearly) to write comments or if attitude to learning drops below 5. If parent concerned, then advised to contact teacher directly as all teachers emails are on Leigh website

Some parents shared their realisation (now child in Y11)of how much work and dedication teacher have, time spent on reports 6 times a year and wanted to voice their appreciation of teachers dedication and to have this passed on. Principal's thanked parents for these comments and will pass on to staff.

Q Parent/Tutor day-Some students not in uniform.

A Uniform is expected however teacher are in difficult position when students come in with their parents not in correct uniform.

- **Members Questions**

Q Show my Homework has gone quiet.

A Looking into this as some parents previously raised this.

Q Had Principals heard of salt/ice challenge craze going around schools?

A No incidences in school yet but Principals would stay vigilant.

Q Pedestrian footbridge over Princes/Green St Green Rd junction-can school salt on icy days, quite slippery on Friday 13th.

A Salting bridge responsibility of Kent Council. School cannot salt it as if they do and someone still slips, it become Academy's fault. Academy will contact Kent Council.

Q Bottle flipping?

A Will be vigilant.

7pm Principals leave.

- **AOB**

Some mock exams cancelled (engineering, ethics) little notice.

Facebook for LAPG-meeting to be arranged between Mark Shepherd, KB (chair), JJ (secretary) and Sarah Hitchings (Da Vinci parent experienced in running FB group with multi members). SH suggested this be closed group and posts to be approved, this agreed.

Q-Has anyone else had trouble with rewards and consequences on portal-it does not appear to be working.

A Another parent reported this was working now.

Discussed UCAS now doing P16 entry. Y11 students have received letters end 2016 from KCC giving them individual usernames and passwords for applying for P16 at current and other schools. Application is online via UCAS www.kentchoices.com and select 'search and apply'. You can select school, courses and then monitor application online. Leigh require applications by end January, other schools may have other dates.

Other options were listed in the letter -apprenticeships or work based options.

Meeting ended 7:20pm

Next meeting 6.30pm Monday 6th March 2017 Board Room.

Kezzabates@yahoo.co.uk - Kerry Bates (Chair)

mandykennedy@hotmail.co.uk Mandy Kennedy (Vice Chair)