



Parents' Forum

Minutes of Meetings

2019 – 2020



Parents' Forum

7th November at 5:15pm – 6:30pm

Minutes

In attendance: Mrs V Somerville (Chair), Ms Bullerwell, Mrs Carlin, Mrs Brownlee-Dixon, Mrs E Davison, Mrs Hall, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Kelly, Mrs L Rasmussen.

Academy staff: Mrs Somerville, Mr Ward, Mrs Potter, Mr Hall, Ms Robinson, & Miss Clews

1. Welcome and Introductions

Actions

All present were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves. Terms of Reference were circulated. The Chair informed members that this group is an important part of the Academy and that minutes are shared with the Governing Body.

2. Raising Aspirations

Mr Hall gave a presentation on Raising Aspirations and discussed his role and the opportunities that are planned for students such as business breakfasts, medical school events, including holding focus weeks to engage students interests in different areas.

Parents were informed that some trips would be for specific groups of students, but the Academy will ensure that all students are all able to access trips and events and not just rely on students putting themselves forward.

3. Year 7 Transition

Mrs Potter gave a presentation regarding the new Year 7 intake and shared some results from a survey where students had stated they are enjoying their time at the Academy. Parents were informed the Year 6 visits had helped students develop confidence and this in turn has helped them to settle well into Academy Life. Parents were informed that the Year Teams support students who are not happy or have concerns.

Parents complimented the Academy on the extra support offered to students with additional needs, this has included extra visits and meetings with class teachers.

Parents asked if the release from lessons to start lunch early would be extended. Mrs Potter advised that this would be reviewed but students seem to have managed this well and it may not be necessary.

4. Welfare and Behaviour

Mr Ward gave a presentation to parents and discussed the structure for the Pastoral Teams and informed the meeting that there had been two new Senior Pastoral Managers appointed.

Mr Ward discussed parents being able to access the VLE and Classcharts to see information on their child.

Parents were informed of the Academy expectations in relation to attendance and the process that the Academy uses to contact parents and to encourage students to attend. The expectation will be that any missed work will have to be completed. The attendance officer will send text messages to parents of students who have 100% attendance each week.

Parents commented that the Classcharts system is good as it also records good behaviour as well a negative and this allows parents to have discussion with their children and to give praise.

Parents were informed that the Academy has a requirement to display the 'Keeping Children safe in Education policy' and this is displayed in all offices. Parents were informed that all staff have to complete Prevent and Safeguarding Training. The Academy also uses another system called CPOMs. To record any safeguarding concerns.

The Academy has three designated safeguarding leads, Mrs Somerville, Mr Ward and Mrs Potter.

5. Opportunities beyond the classroom

Parents were shown the schedule of enrichment activities and were advised that due to the Academy trialing a paperless system, these would be promoted via facebook, the website, and text messages. Parents were informed that activities are open to all students and that teachers keep registers of who has attended.

It was agreed that Tutors would be asked to remind students of the activities.

Teaching
staff

The Chair thanked the Academy for the range of activities offered to students after school.

Parents asked about work experience opportunities for students. Mrs Somerville explained that this was mainly only for Sixth form students but some students in Year 10 and Year 11 were offered this opportunity depending upon which pathway they were studying.

Parents were informed that the Academy are due to be visited by Ofsted and were ask to complete the Parentview survey.

6. AOB

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March at 5.15pm.

Parents' Forum

5th March at 5.15pm – 6.30pm

Minutes

In attendance: Mrs V Somerville (Chair), Mrs A Kelly, Mrs E Davison, Mrs M Carlin, Mrs H Hall, Ms S Bullerwell

Academy staff: Mrs R Somerville, Mr J Ward, Mrs H Potter, Ms M Robinson, Miss V Clews

Corona Virus

Parents were provided with an update regarding the corona virus and how this is impacting on the Academy. The Academy are receiving updates from the DFE but advice is not to close the School but maybe have a deep clean like we did back in November 2019. We are concentrating on good hygiene, washing hands and more sanitizer is on order. Cleaners are using chemical cleaning products and have upped the usage of it. There are no absence related issues as yet. At the moment the Spain trip in May is still going ahead, but venue may change if there are any issues closer to the time. Poland trip next year still in diary but no tickets have been purchased.

Review on 3-year KS4 model and how this links to the ASPIRE programme

Parents commented that the Year 8 parents options process was supportive, useful and parents received useful information. The taster sessions were also very helpful. Students were excited to find out if they have got their chosen subjects. Parents were informed that OFSTED may criticize the change to three year GCSEs, but the governing Body are supporting this approach due to the changes to the new GCSEs.

Students that start Year 9 do have an opportunity to change subjects if they think they have made mistakes. It is important that students have a settling in period to ensure they are enjoying the subject.

Drug Awareness

Parents were informed that there have been two recent incidents in the Academy involving five students. Students have been informed of the dangers around this. During Assemblies. The Pastoral teams will receive training on Drug Awareness and the local PSCO has visited the Academy with drug information.

Parents were asked to inform staff in the Academy if they have any concerns. anything. The Academy are considering allowing police dogs in school to walk around building, however if this is arranged parents would be notified in advance. Parents expressed an interest in being able to participate in Drug awareness information sessions. It was agreed to consider arranging these on an evening for those parents who would be interested.

Parents comments they feel reassured that the Academy have managed this very well.

Any other Business

Parents asked questions and Academy staff responded

The SEN room is open to students who need to use this during lunch and breaktimes as is the Year 7 area is available.

The Academy have accepted 300 students into Year 7 in September and there is currently a waiting list.

Mrs Somerville confirmed that there has been risk assessment completed and there are no concerns regarding fire evacuations due to the increase in student numbers, and fire drills are held regularly to ensure students know how to leave the building quickly and safely.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in June, date to be confirmed