



Parents' Council Meeting
Thursday 17th June 2010, 6.30 pm, Hall

Present:

Staff Name

Andy Yarrow
Charlotte Harrison
Lisa Minshull
Tom Cragg
Jeanette Simpson

Role

Principal
Vice Principal
Assistant Principal
Assistant Principal
Curriculum Leader for Personal
Development

Parent / Carer Name

Gloria Gardner
Eunice Hennell
Patricia Barham
Lorraine Newby
Rebecca Wells
Heather Harris
Sue Collman
Stephen Pearmain
Amanda West
Helen Ladjouze

Student Name

Amy Gardner
Adrianna Franklin
Adam Ammran
Alliah Harris-Newby
Molly Wells
Jacob Lansman
Thomas Pearmain
Thomas Pearmain
Danielle West
Shaheen Ladjouze

Apologies:

Parent / Carer Name

None

Student Name

CH welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Learning & Teaching

LM asked the parents for their thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses with regard to the curriculum so far. The following points were made:

WWW

Excellent given the facilities, students have had every opportunity
Any issues have been dealt with well
Good progress has been made
Students well supported
Reporting makes it easier to understand and is definitely a good thing
Mathematics revision tools
Science and MfL work on Fronter
Marking – good teacher comments
Postcards sent home

EBI

Computer issues
Communication home – email as ideal format for the future, online reporting next year
Clearer guidance with regard to revision
Amount of IL is minimal for some and heavy for others – this will be monitored and as IL timetable implemented if necessary
Variation in standard of marking
Quality of handwriting has deteriorated - use of computers v's doing handwriting.

LM explained setting arrangements for next academic year.

Gifted & Talented

TC explained that the Gifted and Talented programme benefits all students. He explained the difference between 'gifted' and 'talented' – gifted is across lots of subjects and talented is in individual subjects and explained how gifted and talented students are identified by their CATs score and their teachers.

TC explained how G&T students are catered for in curriculum planning. He explained that regular and varied extension tasks are provided in lessons and that the enrichment and extended curriculum programmes provide a huge range of opportunities for all students which compliment the main curriculum offer in the core curriculum.

SRE Programme Consultation

JS gave a presentation (attached) covering the following key questions:

What is SRE ?

How is it delivered ?

One hour a week including key topics of citizenship, careers, health and well-being, SRE, drugs and alcohol, financial capability, work experience and volunteering.

How is it taught?

3 strands values and attitudes, knowledge and understanding, personal and social skills

What is the Legal position?

What is the Christian position?

What resources can be used in lessons?

The parents were invited to sample some of the resources for KS3 used in other schools that we might use e.g.: leaflets, dvds, websites and thinking activities.

Q & A / Any other business

In response to questions the following items were discussed:

Parents agreed that the information folder should be available online with hard copies only provided to those without internet access.

It was suggested that parents could be emailed, rather than telephoned, with notification of detentions. This causes some issue with same day detentions.

Parents like the strict ethos of the Academy.

Parents were informed that students can go out onto the street to use their mobile phones to contact home if they need to after school (there is a pedestrian area on Tectott Road), or they can use the telephone at student service for 10 p.

CH and AY explained the vertical coaching system and the role of non-teaching House Heads.

Methods of Academy-Home communication including telephone, email, text messages and online reporting were discussed.

There will be a tour of the Lots Road building for existing parents in September / October.

AOB

AY explained that we have developed links with Hampshire School in Chelsea who are running a New Learning Centre and are hosting a presentation on parenting from a specialist. In response to a query from AY the parents agreed that this is something which some people may find useful as it could provide confidence and useful role models.

AY explained why the Academy supplies uniform to parents direct and asked the parents to review the uniform and offer views and ebi points.