



## **Parents' Forum Notes**

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 5.00pm,**

**Present:** Mrs Somerville (Chair), Mrs H Hall, Mrs Bullawell, Mrs Carlin, Mrs Kelly, Mr Johnson

**Academy Staff:** Mr Urwin (Principal), Mr Clough, Ms Robinson (Note taker)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and all present introduced themselves.  The Principal introduced himself and shared information about his previous experience and plans for his future vision for the Academy.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Notes of previous meeting</b>  Minutes of previous meeting were agreed
<b>3.</b>	<b>Recruitment of new Chair</b>  The Chair discussed the need to appoint a new Chair for the Parents Forum and the need for the Parents Forum to feed back into the Local Governing Body meetings. The Chair would represent the Parents Forum at LGB Meetings. The current proposal is that the Vice Chair of the Local Governing Body will automatically be appointed as Chair of the Parents Forum. This ensures continuity of the post and representation at the LGB.  The Chair will be supported by the Vice Chair who will be elected from within the members of the Parents Forum and will ensure the agenda reflects current parental issues. The Vice Chair may also be eligible to stand as a Parent Director at Academy Trust Board meetings. The Vice Chair must be a parent of a student in the Academy.  It was agreed that the Terms of Reference for the Parents' Forum would need to be updated and that there would be a vote by members of the Parents Forum on who to select as Vice Chair of the Parents' Forum should there be more than one person interested.  Parents also discuss how to recruit more members to the Parents' Forum.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Academy Uniform (new skirt)</b>

	<p>Parents were shown the new Academy Skirt and advised the cost would be approximately £10 - £15. The Trust have agreed to introduce a new Academy skirt that would be compulsory for students. Parents agreed to the style and it was agreed that this would be implemented for September.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Chartwells – quality of food offer</b></p> <p>Parents were informed that Chartwells have introduced new food stations and the processing of meals during lunchtimes is much quicker. The Principal has met with Chartwells and the meal offer has improved. There will be another meeting with Chartwells which will also include members from the Student Council.</p> <p>Theme days are popular with students.</p> <p>Discussion regarding setting daily spend limits for students, confirmation this is currently set at £5 unless parents request this to be amended. FSM allowance is £2.35 for a meal deal.</p> <p>Parents were informed that students are required to sit down when they are eating, and they are not allowed to eat outside.</p> <p>Sixth form students help with lunch duties and are paid in Amazon vouchers.</p> <p>The Principal informed Parents that they were welcome to visit the Academy during the school day anytime.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Stakeholder Feedback</b></p> <p>The Principal explained that he will be focussing on inviting parents into the Academy via a variety of events, not just parents' evenings, and in particular focussing on hard to reach parents. Some suggestions included holding Afternoon Teas, Art work exhibitions, students writing to parents to invite them to view their work, and holding well-being sessions.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents expressed concern that the Gem Travel bus frequently breaks down or is late. Academy is aware and students should not be punished for being late due to the bus.</li> <li>• Parents were informed that reward assemblies take place and students who achieve over 2000 class chart points are entered into a draw to receive Amazon vouchers.</li> <li>• Golden moments are being issued on a daily basis and these are being published on social media.</li> <li>• Parents also expressed concerns about the number of supply staff being used. Parents were advised that there were high numbers of staff absent due to covid and use of supply staff was currently unavoidable.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ski Trip had to be cancelled due to the postponements and the reduced number of students. There has been another Ski Trip planned for 2023 in partnership with Wellfield and NDA which is open to students in Year 7,8, and 9.</li><li>• Mrs Somerville informed parents that she had visited the Academy and was impressed with the new structure in lessons. Parents were informed that teachers had introduced a new 6 part lesson and were using timers for tasks to prevent time wasting and this was having a positive impact on students behaviour and progress.</li><li>• Parents expressed concerns that there was not enough notice for assessment window and this had caused stress for students. Parents were informed that from next Year, department plans will be uploaded to the website and Parents and students will have more notice when assessments are taking place. As Year 10 students have not sat any exams, Mock exams will be arranged towards the end of the Academic Year.</li></ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Dates of next meeting</b>  Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June