



## **Parents' Forum Notes**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November at 5.15pm,**

**Academy Staff:** Mrs Veide, Ms Robinson (Note taker),

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and all present introduced themselves.  Craig Johnson was introduced as the new Chair of the Parents' Forum and he is also Vice Chair and on the Academy Trust Board.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Updates</b>  Mrs Veide (CVE) provided some updates to parents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communications – a new weekly parents' newsletter will be shared via social media with parents on a Friday.</li><li>• SOS button on the website should be used to report any safeguarding concerns.</li><li>• ClassCharts – is also used to record homework notification for parents</li><li>• Consett Way – has been launched to students and there are a number of student Ambassadors who complete additional task in the Academy as part of this role.</li><li>• Student Voice regularly takes place and this is to obtain feedback from students.</li><li>• Year 10 students will be receiving career support this year.</li><li>• Year 9 Options process for next year will begin after Christmas.</li><li>• Radios – staff have been issued with headsets to reduce radio noise.</li><li>• Breakfast Club has been launched and students are able to get free porridge, students can access the building at 8am via Main Reception.</li><li>• Students lockers all sorted</li></ul> Parents expressed concerns about the number of supply staff being used who don't know how to teach the subject and regular teachers been used to teach other year groups. CVE explained that there had been an increase in staff

	<p>absences and that experienced staff had been used to teach exam classes. The Academy were minimising disruptions as best as possible.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Parents expressed concerns about the communications from the Academy, whilst improved there were still concerns in relations to contacting staff and phone calls not being returned. Some parents; stated it was easy to send emails. Parents' asked for up to date contact details of staff to be shared.</p> <p>A parents discussed classcharts not being used 'intelligently' by staff in relations to issuing negatives to students for first offences and no restorative conversations taking place. Parents also commented that when students are issued Golden moments it is not always clear why they have received them.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Consett Way</b></p> <p>Parents asked for more information about 'The Consett Way. CVE explained that this was launched to all students in September to inform them of the rules and expectations ie uniform, with the aim to raise standards.</p> <p>Parents asked about bullying in the Academy and were informed from the recent student voice students said bullying was not an issue in the Academy.</p> <p>Parents were informed that a weekly newsletter will be produced and shared with parents.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Sixth Form</b></p> <p>Currently 160 applications for the Sixth form to start in Sept 2023, open evening and taster sessions will be held.</p> <p>Parents expressed concern about rumours that students regularly take drugs and also the use of vapes in the toilets. Parents were informed that there is a new toilet system, where a member of staff ensures they are used properly and students need a toilet pass during lessons. Parents were informed that all students receive education on drugs in Aspire and it is also part of the development programme. There is not a problem with drugs in the Academy.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Parents expressed concern that there is no school crossing patrol outside the Academy. CVE explained that this is the responsibility of Durham County Council who are having difficulty recruiting staff. Academy staff are on site every morning and evening to monitor road safety.</p>