

Parent forum 04.02.2018 - minutes

Present: CAN Paul Collin (PCC), Max Cook (MCC) , Debbie Edwards (DXE)

Parents: Katrina Webster (KW), Louise Smith (LS), Ian West (IW), June West (JW), Louisa Hazell (LH)

Katy Powley (KP), Steven Powley (SP)

1. Welcome from Paul and everyone re-introduced themselves for new members
2. DXE – former minutes – agreed
3. MCC – pantomime, 3 nights sold out, most ambitious very well received, high quality performance by students, and students coming along to see their peers Norfolk Scholars Residential, supporting students who are thinking about university, very positive response from our students who were performing alongside primary schools. Trip to London at beginning of half term; trip to see Romeo and Juliet Year 11 students were fantastic and great representatives of the Academy.
4. PCC – Parental Engagement. Why did you come back? LS came to Buddy evening and that gave her the push. Same for KP and SP.
Major event – Year 7 Advice Evening – to launch new things on 25th Feb
Parental Engagement Evenings – learn to cook. Term 6 this will start (after May half term) 6 weeks' worth of cooking classes, parents and students, or just parents. Will be asked to bring one ingredient, but everything else on site.
5. Parent Governor applications still open, closing soon, but still spot for parents.
6. Community Engagement – have parents spoken to anyone in their community regarding the Academy, positive or negative.
 - KP hasn't heard anything negative. Asked about Newsletter. PCC said we don't do formal newsletter, but he does send out letter every term with forthcoming events. KP suggested activities for children may encourage parents to come along.
 - LS – not a chance to speak to other parents, different set up to primary schools. Social media (Facebook) has been a tool for promoting school and positivity postcard.
 - LH got postcards home for both her children and Star of the Week.
 - JW said she gets negative feedback from people when she says where her daughter goes.
 - PCC explained ERA points, students get awarded for things they enjoy, could be engagement in a club, points for being respectful to students and teachers. Since September we've been giving out more points. All points are fed into the house system and at end of the year, we have a celebration assembly.
IW – invite parents to the assembly as we know the winners are in advance.

- KP mentioned newsletter to make parents aware of the progress teacher/subject meetings and possibly child care on site to encourage parents who can't get child care.
 - DXE agreed we haven't communicated very well about the change from progress reviews to parent/teacher meetings.
 - MC suggested a newsletter from Parent Forum
7. PCC – feedback and thoughts – the uniform is going to change slightly for Year 7's joining us. Still black, piping around the collar and new logo. Changing some of the compulsory items. Blazer, ties, trousers, skirts – will have to be bought from the suppliers. Unified so all from one place, from September if you want to buy it, you can, but not compulsory. We are going to bring in a compulsory school bag and PE kit bag for everyone.

Parents have feedback about paying for school dinners, trips etc requires cash. We are introducing Schoolscom, which is an app, you'll be able to see students timetable, text an absence, pay for school dinners or trips. We can text you similar to Groupcall system at the moment. First launch is for Year 7s only on 25th Feb, All thought positive.

Note: receipts for trip deposits, some parents not getting them.

- KW – people who don't have access to computers, can they still pay in cash – they can but we want to encourage people to use it.
 - KP – asked about student librarians – because we haven't had a librarian they've been less evident. Yes, we'll have library up and running after half term.
 - KP – accelerated reader, what's happened to it? It does still exist but because we haven't had a librarian it's fallen by the wayside. They haven't been doing the test because we haven't had a librarian; not just about reading but comprehension too. Wasn't delivered in the best way it could be, but going forward it will be delivered properly, linked into English lessons.
8. Feedback for Buddy and Drinks. If we did again, what could we do to change it, to get more people, or should we do something different. Was it informal enough not to feel threatening? Yes. Got it in a letter, then a text helped to remind parents.

MCC – Parent newsletter, would be good for existing forum members to explain how they found out.

Next Meeting: Monday 1st April 2019 at 5.30