



**Notes of Staffordshire University Academy Parents' Forum
Monday 24th September 2018 6pm – 7pm
Venue: Staffordshire University Academy**

Present:

Mrs. Hillier (Principal), Mr. Mitch Allsopp (Vice Principal), Mrs. A Haffie-Hobday (Assistant Principal), Ms. V Burns (Assistant Principal), Mr. S Williams (Director of Engagement), Ms. E Humpage (Director of Creative), Mrs. Ellen Jones (Director of Science), Mr. Chris Shepherd (Head of Year 7), Mr. Steve Mitchell (Head of Year 11)

Mr. Keith Hollins (CEO, SUA Trust), Mrs. Claire Collins (Parent Governor), Mrs. Heather Holyhead (Co-opted/ community Governor), Mrs. Vicky Askey (Parent Governor)

25 family representatives were in attendance

Mrs Hillier welcomed parents and opened the meeting explaining the agenda and proceeded with the slide presentation.

Slide 3 – Mission statements

There will be no negotiation or change to our mission statements.

To improve the life chances of the students who attend our academy

To continue to improve the examination results for Year 11 and sixth formers

To insist on the highest standards of behaviour through the application of our RESPECT code

To continue to develop our teachers to be non-negotiable of the quality of provision for our students

To be seen by the community as a centre of excellence in opportunity

To become recognised as being a 'Good' academy in Ofsted term

Slide 4– Ofsted monitoring

For those of you who have not seen some of the comments from our last Ofsted monitoring visit in April the highlights are as follows:

'Leaders have a clear understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses'

'As a result of effective training and sharing of best practice, teaching is improving'

'Many examples of high quality questioning to deepen pupils' understanding were seen during the inspection'

'The launch of the RESPECT code...has led to a marked improvement in pupils' behaviour'

‘Current pupils are making improved progress, particularly in English and humanities and strengths in creative and vocational subjects remain’

Mrs. Hillier commented that the next Ofsted monitoring visit is expected in October and will be led by Mr. S Mosley our HMI (Her Majesty’s Inspector).

Slide 5 & 6 - summer 2018 results

Mrs. Hillier went through a summary of the results and further explained that this summer the English scores were up to near national standards and compared to last year there was an improvement of 11% on Best English results, maths improved by 2% and we had fantastic results for sport, catering, product design, business, health and social care. We still need to make improvements on core subjects of science and humanities.

Last academic year we had a few vacancies in maths and science however we have now filled all the positions and believe we have a strong team.

It was highlighted that 86% of our Year 13 student leavers have gone on to university compared to 64% last year. 14% have gone into employment or further training.

Slide 7 – New extended leadership team model to support continued improvement

We are making changes at all levels in regards to accountability and with immediate effect our middle leaders will be accountable to our directors. Mrs Hillier introduced the Directors some of which are present tonight.

Sharon Parkes – Director of English (not present)

Brings a wealth of knowledge to our academy and an examiner for AQA English Language.

Steve Taylor – Director of maths (not present)

From Essex and joined us in January 2018. He will be making big changes in the classroom and with the younger children. Also assisted by a team of specialist maths teachers.

Ellen Jones - Director of Science

Has been brought in to improve end results along with the assistance of an external agency. Ellen is a strong leader, for this core subject.

Esther Humpage – Director of Creative

Working hard to bring together extra curricular activities and period 6 lessons, the academy show and instrumental lessons. All of this as well as overseeing all creative subjects.

Scott Williams – Director of Engagement

Is in charge of Heads of Year, engagement, progress, attendance and behaviour. He will work closely with Assistant Principal Ashley Haffie-Hobday.

Bernie Allsopp – Director of Humanities

Leading the middle leaders of geography, languages, history, sociology and psychology. Has responsibility for HPA (more able students) across the academy. Also leading on the provision for form time activities including CHARACTER education and the assembly programme.

There has been significant change in the SUA team for positive reasons and will support us in realising our key priorities.

Slide 8 – Key priorities

5 key priorities:

1. Improving student outcomes
2. Improving teaching and learning
3. Developing personal development, behaviour and welfare
4. Developing leadership at all levels
5. Developing the sixth form provision

Slides 9 – 16 – Assessment and reporting

Victoria Burns – Assistant Principal explained the grading system of 9-1 and that we are working on new ways of assessment and reporting. Victoria introduced 'The Flightpath' where through assessments we can visualise the flightpath of their journey from key stage 2 to 4. Attainment zones will be used to identify the level the student is at during the journey and this can change as they progress through the stages. All Year 7 students will be given an attainment zone based on their key stage 2 results.

Victoria went on to show to examples of the attainment zones. Students were at attainment zone 5-6 and 8-9 and sat their GCSE one year early and both achieved a grade 8. We never cap a student and tell them that they are this colour and will always be this colour. We set this as a minimum target grade (MTG) and encourage students to exceed these.

Students will have an assessment twice per half term in core subjects and they will have a standard assessment sticker (sample shown in presentation) in their exercise books so parents can monitor their progress.

Reporting – we will collect the data as progress checks 3 times a year and a report will be forwarded to parents. Year 7 parents will receive the first one but it will only be an attitude to learning check in October; links to targets will follow later in the term.

Full reports will be published for all students once a year, Year 7 and 8 in July, Year 9 in April. Parents evening will be held once a year per year group.

Y10 & 11 will get the working at grade and teacher forecast for the end of the year. They also sit for mock exams i.e.: Pre Public Exam (PPE).

Slides 20 - 24 - Communication with parents

Scott Williams – Director of Engagement advised that with immediate effect the first point of contact for parents is the form tutor. They will be contacting all parents and introducing themselves in the first half term. Heads of Year have a higher profile this year and will also be contacting all parents.

School comms app – 250 parents are signed up. Letters are forwarded through the app via an email attachment and a link, we would appreciate your feedback as to which is preferred.

We are considering a 'ClassCharts App' where parents can see the following information:

- Track positive and negative behaviour

- Rewards
- Sanctions
- Homework

We would like to know from you if this would be a useful tool. A letter will go out for volunteers to sign up for a pilot scheme.

Key dates coming up

- Wednesday 26th September, 6-7pm 150 Day Event (Y11 only)
- Thursday 4th October, 6-8.30pm Open Evening
- Tuesday 16th October, 4-6.30pm Parents' Evening (Y7 and Y13 only)
- Tuesday 13th November, 6-7pm Parents' Forum

Slides 17 – 19 Knowledge organisers

Mitch Allsopp – Vice Principal, Year 9 are scheduled for more hours for creative subjects as they are opting for 4 subjects in Year 10 and 11. Bernie Allsopp will be leading CHARACTER education where we balance academic studies with developing character and opportunity to think.

We have produced knowledge organisers; invaluable tools. Each student has one and it contains information on everything they are expected to know. This would be a good tool for parents to use to help and support the students. It is so important that we have your support. Every half term an updated version is uploaded on to the website.

Q & A

Question: School reports were given out very late in the summer term.

Answer: Apologies were given and reassurance that as far as possible it would not happen again.

Old grades and new grades comparison chart will go on the back of the report card for easy reference. Victoria Burns will forward a leaflet explaining about attainment zones.

Question: School Comms has no timetable.

Answer: Information is transferred directly from the SIMs programme so we will check if there is a problem with the information transfer. Mr. Scott Williams to follow up.

Question: Intervention, student had two subjects on Wednesday instead of one, sociology and geography.

Answer: Mr. Steve Mitchell, Head of Year 11 responded. Year 11 intervention is currently compulsory only for one evening, all other period 6 classes are voluntary at the moment. Once we have data collected after half term we can guide the students to which ones are necessary.

Question: Maths teacher for 6th form. My child has already had 3 cover lessons since the start of school.

Answer: We have a colleague off ill with a serious health issue another new member of the team joined us a one week into term due to a pre booked holiday; everything should settle down.

Question: 6th form, if no lessons do the students need to come to the academy.

Answer: Yes, free period they must use as study periods.

Question: Year 7 how long will my daughter be doing Spanish, as she is doing 2 languages at the moment.

Answer: The Government has offered for us to support the language teacher exchange programme. So the Spanish taster classes for Year 7 to take up another language as well as French.

Parent- please ask the language teachers to give different homework as my daughter is counting 1 to 10 in both languages at the same time which is very confusing.

Answer: Suggestion was noted and will be conveyed to the language teachers.

Parent: My child is really enjoying the two different languages.

Question: Birmingham REP theatre, some students are missing important lessons like maths?

Answer: This is for Year 7 and only for 10 weeks. The outcomes and wider value of the project offered is excellent. Students still have 3 maths lessons a week and can use their knowledge organisers and request extra homework.

Question: Where can I order the revision book for Year 10?

Answer Order form is available from Ms. Fletcher. Will send out for orders, expect books to be here after half term.

Question: Why are there no posters or banners for the academy's Open Evening when all other schools are up?

Answer: Billboards is by Tesco, we have been let down by the printer however we should have banners by later this week.

Question: Year 7 my daughter was taken out of class for guided reading twice each week from form time.

Answer: Victoria Burns to follow up with parent.

Mrs Hillier thanked everyone for their support and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13th November 2018, 6-7pm