

Notes of Staffordshire University Academy Parents' Forum
Monday 5th June 2018 6pm – 7 pm
Venue: Staffordshire University Academy

Present:

Mrs Hillier (Principal), Councillor Jones (Governors), Mr Allsopp (Vice Principal), Mr Williams (Director of Teaching and Learning), Ms V Burns (Director of Teaching and Learning), Mr S Taylor (Director of Mathematics and staff governor), Mrs Holyhead (staff governor), Mrs A Haffie-Hobday (Assistant Principal), Mrs N Coss (Business Manager)

11 families were in attendance

Mrs Hillier welcomed parents and opened the meeting with an update on the recent OFSTED monitoring visit.

RH shared some press releases and noted how the messaging from the media had improved through the summer.

Parents noted that a lead HMI had been allocated to the academy. HMI Simon Moseley will stay with us through the process. RH shared highlights of the monitoring report. Lots of changes to leadership; this has been positive, also curriculum developments, Chase View Support Centre, improved communications with parents, positive safeguarding, improved governance, improvement to Teaching and Learning, RESPECT code, bullying dealt with quickly and effectively, progress is being demonstrated, English, humanities, creative and vocational areas are all demonstrating improvements and progress.

Areas for development

Continue to make progress in Teaching and Learning, Year 11 Maths outcomes, Year 11 science outcomes, extended writing in all subjects, careers strategy for all students, ensure additional funding is spent effectively.

Next steps

- Development plan for continued improvements
- Visit in October

Mr S Taylor – Director of Maths

ST shared his background and his enthusiasm to be here. As part of his vision he wished to change how students view maths so that students think it is easy, relevant and exciting. To ensure all students are enthused and engaged and then the outcomes will follow. Some of work at KS3 was not fit for purpose, the KS2 breadth of curriculum is huge and then KS3 starts by going over old ground. Mastery is being added through KS3, Mrs Roberts is engaging with

primary colleagues to see how they teach this and extend into Year 7 & 8; there should be a seamless link through. KS4 also wasn't robust enough so exam board was changed. Teaching strategies have been reviewed and is now consistent; the same diet in every lesson. There will be extra curricular activity from September and cross curricular links will be forged across the academy. All focussed on making it easy, relevant and exciting. Review of homework and the use of Hegarty Maths, project work and investigation will be implemented for the holiday period and starts to set the scene for September.

Complete restructure in maths, KS4 lead - Mrs Smith, KS3 lead - Mrs Roberts, Mr Raman - Projects and investigations maths conversion course has been undertaken for those non specialists who are part of the wider maths teaching team.

Miss Burns

The English team have been relentless. Gone through from KS2 and mapped the skills up to KS4, changed the texts to make them more engaging. All year groups have been doing a weekly "big write". Doing lots of creative writing competitions and some Year 8 work will be published. The Team have put themselves through a lot of training. Four of the team are GCSE markers. Sharpening focus on progress and know the students and what their support needs are. Out of hours activity has helped a lot and students know that it is an expectation. Proud of the recognition from OFSTED, forecast data is looking strong and the team are consistent.

Looking forward, Year 10 sat their English literature a year early to try and take some of the pressure of the possible 27 exams they will do in Year 11. Ms Parkes will become Director of English for September. The team are putting more challenge into the system to extend their writing and stretch from KS2.

RH – Also appointed Director of Science who will attend in October to set out her vision for the department.

Mr Williams Sanctions and Rewards.

Students behave well – we expect this to be always.

RESPECT code is now embedded.

Students show respect and are increasingly proud of school.

Attendance is above national average – this is being driven by our recently appointed Attendance Intervention Manager.

Rewards are under review at the moment, Class Charts shop is suspended until we stock it with what the students want and need.

Sanctions – we are more focussed on preventing behaviour rather than sanctioning it.

We are reworking the isolation facility to increase its effectiveness.

Increased focus on punctuality.

More focus on any student who causes low level disruption in lessons.

School Comms Update – real push on getting email addresses. Now got over 500 students with parental email addresses. This term we are doing a prize draw to try and encourage students to get their parents on board.

Questions

Concern over maths and the perceived lack of feedback and encouragement from the student – ST to pick up

Mrs. M – commented that communication is inconsistent - some is good but some is lacking.

Question about supply staff, we are fully staffed for September, strengthening leadership and associate teachers who want to go onto teaching. The Special Measures judgement does create its own challenges and it has been a challenge this year. 2 long term supply teachers but sometimes students perceive cover supervisors as supply staff.

Pastoral Coordinator – question about whether PCs will move up the school with the students – RH commented that there are no plans to change this but it will be under review as a matter of course.

Question of who to escalate if HOY isn't responding – DP or ScW

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th July 2018, 6-7pm