



**Notes of Staffordshire University Academy Parents' Forum
Wednesday 23rd January 2019, 6pm – 7pm
Venue: Staffordshire University Academy**

Present:

Mrs. Hillier (Principal), Mr. Mitch Allsopp (Vice Principal), Mr. Scott Williams (Assistant Principal), Mrs. Bernie Allsopp (Assistant Principal), Ms. V Burns (Director of Teaching and Learning), Mrs. Ellen Jones (Director of Science), Mr. Ian Kirk (HoY 8), Mr. Tom Holdway (HoY 9), Mr. Chris Shepherd (HoY 7), Mrs. Teresa Smith (Lead Practitioner maths)

Mr. Keith Hollins (CEO, SUA Trust), Mrs. Claire Collins (Parent Governor),

7 family representatives were in attendance

Mrs Hillier welcomed parents and opened the meeting explaining the agenda for the evening.

Slides 4 to 8

Academy Development Plan is available on the SUA website.

There are 5 priorities.

Priority 1: Improve outcomes for all pupils, especially disadvantaged pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4

There has been a large investment time and skill from the staff to improve the curriculum. We have a mastery framework for Years 7 to 13 which is used to implement new schemes of work. Staff are completing class data sheets which contextualise how they will address the underperformance of specific students and stretch the most able through their teaching delivery this term. The mastery frameworks are being supported by the curriculum maps in each subject area, which are being developed this term and have a focus on skills and specific knowledge. We have increased intervention for Project 20 (all disadvantaged students) and VIP (students who are both SEN and disadvantaged) in each year group.

Priority 2: Improve the quality of teaching in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

Main area of CPD will be stretch and challenge. Staff are constantly being developed, we offer advice and staff are encouraged to source courses to attend. Our staff body are becoming a skilled work force. Next we will focus on skills for sixth form teachers. Mr Williams is driving the redevelopment of sixth form. There is an increase in stretch and challenge which is evidenced in typicality feedback. We want a consistent provision for high prior attaining students. Clear and defined feedback when marking workbooks, reflective of a student's starting point. An increase the use of Knowledge Organisers in the classroom, we are all very proud of them and believe it to be an essential tool for the students.

Priority 3: Improve pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare & Priority 4: Improve the effectiveness of leadership and management at all levels

We have 3 of our Heads of Year here this evening, Mr Ian Kirk (HoY 10), Mr Tom Holdway (HoY 8), Mr Chris Shepherd (HoY 7). Behaviour is being challenged as soon as students arrive at the academy. We are looking at tutor period, further developing and supporting our 'Form Tutor First' approach. The Class Charts app has been rolled out and is available for parents to monitor their child's behaviour both positive and negative, it is a monitoring tool used to identify CPD requirements. There are big changes in sixth form over the past couple of weeks. Every single lesson has been visited by the Senior Leadership this month and Mr Allsopp is delivering some training with staff of sixth form lessons on 4th February.

Mrs Hillier introduced Mrs Allsopp, delivering improvements on homework.

Slides 9 to 12

Homework

Mrs Allsopp commented that so far the focus has been on Years 7, 8 and 9 and the rational is to set a minimum expectation for homework, giving the students choice over their homework task (homework task grid is available on the website and a copy inside their Knowledge Organisers). The tasks are generic and can be used with any subject and content. Students are very clear on expectations and that this is the minimum homework to be completed. Teachers can set additional homework which is logged in Class Charts. There is also a homework board in each classroom where best practice homework is displayed and shared. Again the Knowledge Organisers are very important tool for homework tasks and students are being encouraged to use them.

Mrs Hillier introduced Mr Williams presenting on the sixth form, behaviour for learning and communication.

Slides 13 to 15

Sixth form update

The perception of sixth form is changing, with our students looking much smarter in their business attire which is closely monitored by staff. Form time has been re-launched and there is now a structured programme:

Monday – life skills

Tuesday – study skills

Wednesday – stand your ground (debate)

Thursday – assembly/briefing

Friday – linked to leadership role or career path.

The leadership challenge has already begun and groups have presented projects to the senior leadership. So far they include County Games (a sports event) and an initiative to support girls within the academy.

Sixth form room has been redecorated by Year 9 and 10 students and VIY tradesmen from Wickes.

There has already been over 60 applications for the new sixth form intake, this time last year there was 16. We have a new staff member, Alex Benn who has taken on the role of Academic Mentor and he has a first class honours degree. Alex is preparing the sixth form for university and exploring life chances.

Student leadership roles has been introduced. We want all sixth form students to be leaders, there will be student leaders in every subject. Leaders will liaise with staff to ensure student voice is heard. They are the ambassadors for the academy and will be present during all events like Parents' Evening, open evening etc. Sixth form students will be assigned to every year group and will attend assemblies and hold meetings.

Slides 16 to 18

Behaviour

There has been an improving trend in behaviour, according to staff, students, external partners and parents. During the monitoring visit in October Ofsted reported, behaviour is being managed more effectively and pupils are taking more responsibility for their actions, less learning time is lost now as a result of disruption and the number of instances of inappropriate behaviour has reduced.

We are focusing on low level disruption like late arrival to class, persistent chattering or whispering, daydreaming, lack of correct equipment, out of seat, continuous questioning, tapping, fidgeting, eating, use of mobiles and earphones. There is a clear message to staff to challenge low level disruption. There will be increased consistency, we will continue to embed for 'Form Tutor First' and we strive for active engagement.

Question – have there been more exclusions recently?

Answer - yes we are still excluding students if we need to but we are also providing restorative work with students.

Slides 19 to 21 Communication

School Comms – the newsletter was sent electronically for the first time at Christmas. Data collection sheets were sent home last week to get up to date information, please fill these out and return.

Class Charts app - has been rolled out, 160 parents on board. It allows dialogue between staff – parents – students. There has been overwhelmingly positive feedback from those using it, we hope to increase parental engagement and support. It is also very useful for behaviour, positivity and homework.

Mr Hillier asked if there were any questions.

Q & A

Q - Behaviour, do you monitor behaviour all the time? Are students made to stand in the corner for bad behaviour?

A - We want it monitored consistently, staff are expected to remain calm, ask restorative questions and the student may be asked to leave the room when asking restorative questions. Not stand in the corner; no.

Q – Rewards, can you have some kind of recognition for students who achieve points?

A – Mr Kirk is working on this, rewards day will be more frequent.

Q – Homework, level has massively improved, thank you it's fantastic.

A – We have really tried to raise the profile of it.

Q – Well done for sixth form, however my son was late to lesson after a meeting with the senior leadership and teacher got upset.

A – Mr Williams apologised and assured the parent he would clarify this with the teacher.

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

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st March, 6-7pm