

Minutes of Staffordshire University Academy Parents' Forum

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 6pm – 7 pm

Venue: Staffordshire University Academy

**Present:**

Mrs Hillier (Principal), Mr Williams (Chair of Governors), Mr Allsopp (Vice Principal), Ms Owen (Vice Principal), Mr S Andrews (Assistant Principal), Mr Williams (Director of Teaching and Learning), Ms V Burns (Director of Teaching and Learning), Mrs Holyhead (staff governor), Mr J Andrews (staff governor) Mrs N Coss (Business Manager)

13 Families were present

Minutes		Action
Mr Andrews presented information with regard to student engagement, more creative arts, and more engagement - student production. Parents were informed that Year 7 have asked for more opportunities for fundraising. The academy are increasing opportunities for students to share opinions and have a student voice in staff appointments. Students had asked for more time to hand in homework – and the academy has responded with the provision of the homework timetable. Mr Andrews also draw attention to the success of Children in Need activities and the Children's Takeover Day.		
Mrs Hillier - you said, we did		
You said	We did	
Wanted more creative arts	New leader of subject and increased engagement in subject and extra-curricular	
Year 7 want more opportunities for fundraising	Meeting with Head of Year to plan future events	
Opportunities to share their opinions	Student suggestion box placed in reception area	
More time to complete homework	Reviewed homework timetable and spoke to teachers	
Want academy council badges	New badges on order	
Students want more rewards issued	End of term pizza party for students and future developments to be discussed	
We are not clear on the homework that is being set and the frequency	Uploaded week by week homework tasks for the first term	
Not enough time is being given for children to complete the homework tasks	Reminded teachers of our policy to allow a week for homework completion	

Behaviour and low level disruption is a problem	Introduced the 3Ps, new one warning rule and appointed Head of Year	
More after school clubs are needed	A range of after school clubs are held every evening, teachers have been asked to ensure they publicise these	
The maths results are not good enough	Held a full maths review, trained 3 teachers, appointed a Director of maths	
Pastoral coordinators should stay with their year group from Y7 to Y11	Restructured by appointing 3 teaching Head of Year...the 3 PCs now linked to a HOY each for consistency	
There is not enough Creative Arts on the curriculum	Reviewed the carousel for Y7-9, appointed a new Head of Faculty, began a Y7 project with the Birmingham Rep theatre	
There is not enough communication from the academy to home	Regular update letters are being sent home and uploaded to the website, greater use of texts and student planners. Introducing parent mobile app	
We want the academy to improve	We are working with a range of Teaching School Alliance support, created our Parents' Forum, relaunched the home page of our website to share improvement work with you	
We need more information about targets and reports do not give us enough information	Talked to you about the attainment bands, published these on the website, added reporting to our Parents' Forum discussions	
The Attainment Zones seems too low for my child, how will they be challenged appropriately?	Regular review will take place, zones could be changed and planning challenge is an essential part of each lesson for teachers	
What are the Year 11 and Sixth Form interventions and when will they be held?	Shared information during assemblies, letters home and on information on the website	
The toilets are missing locks and toilet rolls	Ordered new locks and a rota of regular visits by our caretakers is in place	
More time is needed to go to the toilet	Reminded teachers about using their discretion if it was nearing the 5 minute 'move to correct zone'	

Mr Williams introduced Parents to an exciting development in communication from the Academy. An App has been purchased to support communication, which is linked to parent pay, called School Gateway which will be launched in the new term.

Mr Allsopp – shared information with regard to curriculum changes for January 2018, it was noted that OFSTED were critical that our curriculum was too narrow, so parents were offered details on how we are addressing the curriculum for the next two terms. One parent commented on a lack of communication on Lexia reading and the form tutor not responding to a question in the planner – Mr Allsopp explained the change in emphasis but undertook to ensure that the student in question could continue with Lexia. A Parent asked whether students will have the relevant knowledge to be able to pick subjects at Year 10. Mr Allsopp responded that the students will be given as much information as possible, and we can offer tasters through the one hour sessions for the subjects that the students won't have had experience of before now.

Rewards and sanctions update - feedback from external reviewers has been positive, but we want to continue to drive improvement. We will increase the praise postcards and phone calls home. Attendance rewards have increased, pizza party, breakfast parties, jump the queue, love to shop vouchers and the students' most favoured prize - rubik cubes! Sanctions – parents noted that there is a first warning and then into detention, escalated if students don't attend. Parents may note a spike in detentions but there is a positive shift in attitude to behaviour.

Mr Allsopp shared DfE requirements on reporting, sharing some examples of potential report formats and asked for feedback. Parents asked how they would know on this model what the expected grade is, also how do parents know if it says working towards how do they know whether they are nearly there or way off? Can we put what band the child is for each subject? It was suggested that the comment should be completed by Head of Year and tutor, or should it just be tutor comment because the tutors are the closest to them. There will be a second sheet that parents can put comments or request contact. It was noted that teachers' names against the subjects would be helpful.

A parent raised concern that there had been no contact about 6th form in terms of ucas preparation, Mrs Hillier undertook to speak to Mr Andrews with regard to communication for parents about university preparation and a parents evening for Year 13

Parents wished to express that the Academy do a lot on targets and assessment etc but they do worry about bullying across all year groups, one week doesn't go by when they don't hear something about bullying. How are the academy dealing with it, one parent has had the response that is just X's behaviour and it isn't personal but doesn't feel that that it was appropriate. Mrs Hillier disagrees that it is increasing. One person had a call from her son that his insoles had been flushed down the toilet by someone else and it took all day for a Pastoral Co-ordinator to get back to them and that the concern seemed to be about him being in the correct uniform the day later not about dealing with the bullying. The staff requested that parents should escalate it and use the [info@suacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@suacademy.org.uk) email address or call in and speak to Mrs Hillier, Mr Allsopp or Mrs Coss. One parent commented that the measures that the

<p>academy are putting in to place are taking effect but it takes time to embed, Mr Allsopp stated that we need to be relentless with it and we are.</p> <p>Mr Williams undertook to set up a focus group for the App - volunteers were asked to give their names at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>Parents asked that year 8 students when out on football fixtures - take contact phone so that we can send out a text message to parents about the expected time of return.</p>	
<p><b>Date of the next meeting</b> The next meeting date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018</p> <p><b>Meeting closed 7pm</b></p>	