

Notes of:

Parents' Consultation Forum

Location/Date/Start Time:

Manor Croft Academy, Thursday 15th December 2016, 9.30 a.m.

Attendees:

Andy Barnett (Principal)

Dave Hewitt (Vice Principal)

Parent/Carers representing 32 families across a number all year groups

1. Welcome and introductions:

Refreshments and mince pies were served, parents were invited to stay after the meeting to join Y7 students for a festive performance by the Kirklees 'Musica' pop band.

2. Feedback from the previous meeting held in October:New Assessment Reports

A hand-out of the finished reports that are going home with students tomorrow was distributed. These will be issued 6 times a year, at the end of each half term. The new grading system was explained. Hopefully, these reports will provide the information required by parents. Initial feedback from parents was very positive and they look forward to receiving the reports and going through them with students.

New Behaviour Policy/Behaviour in the Community

Parents were pleased with the progress on behaviour. Concerns raised previously have generally been addressed by changes to the staff duty points. The school is happy to deal with any issues. Overall the parents welcome the change in policy and it is having a positive impact on lessons and the Academy as a whole.

A question was raised regarding the consequences system. Parents were asked to encourage their children to come and see Mr Barnett, if they have any questions or queries on how the system is implemented. Mr Barnett encourages this as the students need to really understand the system. Assemblies have reinforced this at the start of the year delivered by Mr Audsley.

It was discussed that the number of supply staff in school is much reduced than in previous years, this is a very positive reflection on the improved the behaviour.

Girls' uniform

Discussion on skirts, should they have a logo so they cannot be shortened or should everyone wear trousers; there was support for both suggestions. Any changes would have to undergo full consultation and be taken to the governing body. Girl's uniform will be an agenda item for the next meeting (students going into Year 7 in September 2017 will receive a free uniform).

Literacy (all students to bring reading books)

Students are now asked to bring a book to school to encouraging reading. Training on improving literacy has been undertaken by staff. Parents were asked their view on running training sessions for parents to help their child read. Most parents felt they had already done this in junior school.

Initial feedback suggests that the literacy drive is supporting children to read more.

Homework

A couple of inconsistencies raised at the previous meeting with the new policy have been taken to staff and further work done on the setting of homework to ensure that dates are clearly marked in planners so that students know when the deadline is. Year 11 will have homework over the holiday but should not spend *all* their time working!

Parents are happy with the new ELGs and say that students are now getting regular homework.

3. Discussion Points:

New Rewards Policy (Tri-Stars)

It is the intention to make rewards as high a priority as behaviour. Each lesson teachers issue three rewards, these are recorded in student planners. When the required number of stamps has been awarded then students receive a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum badge. Prizes can also be won. Praise phone calls home were very well received by parents. Discussion on the use and signing of planners.

Read, Write Inc. – Fresh Start reading programme

How the system works was explained. The Academy will begin a 33 week course in January to build on reading skills for some students, this is a positive well regarded system to bridge what has been done in primary school.

4. Any other business:

Attendance

Overall attendance is very pleasing and it is hoped this will continue through the winter months. Parents were thanked for their support regarding attendance.

Taking school books home

There was a request for students to be allowed to take more school text books home. Discussion on revision guides and online resources. A list of websites recommended by the Academy will be sent out to parents.

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.