

Notes of:

Parents' Consultation Forum

Location/Date/Start Time:

Manor Croft Academy, Thursday 28th September 2017, 9.00 a.m.

Attendees:

Andy Barnett (Principal)

Dave Hewitt (Vice Principal)

Parent/Carers representing 15 families the students attend all year groups

1. Welcome and introductions:

Refreshments and cakes were served, parents were invited on a tour of the school with AB and DH. 6-8 lessons were visited.

2. Results overview and performance:Summer Results

AB explained the summer results and how the students had done fantastically well. We are now a very high performing school. Due to re-marks etc the results were yet to be confirmed. AB explained how the intervention classes would continue and students this year Y11 were predicted to also do exceptionally well.

Demonstrate marking

DH explained the new way teachers are marking the students work. Demonstrate marking has been introduced to cut the time that teachers are having to take when marking a class set of books.

- If the student has understood, the answer will be highlighted in Green achieving 4/4.
- If there is some knowledge lacking, then the answer is highlighted in Amber achieving 2 or 3/4.
- If the students did not understand and this is evident in the answer, then this is highlighted in Pink achieving 1 or 2/4.

This cuts down the time it takes to mark books as the teacher does not have to write a lengthy comment. If the teacher marking the books sees that the class has received a lot of Amber answers, then they will plan this into the next lesson to ensure students understanding. This helps with planning lessons on the back of marking the books.

Start of the next lesson:

- Pink – Re-do the last question.
- Amber – Not applied knowledge, add some more knowledge.
- Green – Move on to the challenge question.

In some other schools marking only happens once every 3 weeks and in some schools they only mark a selection of the class books on a carousel system. This new form of marking for MCA takes place every lesson or at the least every other lesson. This has been trialled in English/Maths and Science and is now being rolled out to all other subjects. The new form of marking is excellent due to being:

- Immediate feedback.
- Plans next lesson.
- If the students all get Pink then the teacher will teach the whole lesson again, to check understanding.
- Can be used to mark at examination standard.
- Gives years 7 and 8 the opportunity to see how lessons will be taught and marked in the older years. (Junior Schools give too many comments on how to improve).

If the student does not understand then they will have to revisit the question until they get it right. Previously they could not know what the answer should be if the book was not marked. The knowledge content of the lesson is picked up a lot earlier.

Feedback of the new Marking and Assessment Policy

AB asked the parents to go and look in their child's books and see the marking policy in action. At the next Parental Consultation Forum or before if they would like to contact AB or DH feedback would be greatly received. AB reiterated that it is only the DEMONSTRATE task that is marked with the highlighting system.

Alongside this are the regular mocks/Assessments set by DELTA.

3. Tour

Parents toured around the Academy with AB and DH. The parents also saw the demonstrate marking being carried out in Maths and science.

4. PFI

AB explained about the PFI contract and how the Academy are in discussions to try and reduce costs.

5. Behaviour

Exclusions

AB explained about the impact of exclusions when the behaviour policy was launched. It was obvious that the exclusions would be higher in term 1. These are now reducing and has had a positive impact on the Academy and outcomes.

6. Any Other Business – Including Questions from parents

Q – What happens to students who receive persistent C3 or C4's?

A – Johnny Hodgson is AP for behaviour and attendance. He tracks these and puts appropriate intervention in place.

Q – How do the students do work in consequences?

A – In consequences the student completes the work from the lesson they should be in. If the student is at home for a fixed term exclusion then work is available but harder to manage.

Q – Why is homework inconsistent across all subjects?

A – Inconsistencies have been looked at and evaluated and we have embedded the new Knowledge Organisers in Maths first. This is the only subject that are rolling out the new homework substitute now known as Knowledge Organisers. This is due to the ELG's not working. The Knowledge Organisers were explained and how they will be used in other subjects as a testing platform for parents to help with.

Q – Why have Parents evenings changed? Now Parents are only invited if the Teacher wants to speak to you.

Parents mentioned that the reports have no personal points and have no reflection on their child's personality.

A – DH explained that we encourage all parents to attend parents evening. There is no problem with any parent/carer making appointments for parents evening with the teachers and form tutors of all students. The parents evening system is introduced by Delta and we follow it. There are now 3 parents evening a year for the whole school.

Enrichment Activities

AB asked all the parents if there was anything they could offer as an Enrichment Activity then to contact AB or DH and they would discuss the possibility. The Students were asked what they would like to do as Enrichment Activities from this:

- Gaming design club has been formed.
- Multi Gym is in the process of being equipped in the Dance Studio.
- Den Making Activities are being considered.

At the next Parental Consultation Meeting AB will encourage the parents to say where in the Academy they would like to visit whilst on the tour.

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.