

## Abbey Grange C/E Academy

### Parent Council (PC) Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Present:** Janet Bove, Timothy Jacobs, Marion Kemp, Mike Kemp, Catherine Kershaw-Guy, Emma Hawker, Martin Lamb, Pete Golding

#### 1. Chair's opening remarks:

Mike welcomed Pete Golding, new Head of Sixth Form at Abbey Grange. He will be representing the school on behalf of Jenny tonight.

#### 2. Apologies: Stephanie Cassidy, Deborah Copeland, James Fenton, Susan Field, Richard Hamlin and Jenny Thornton.

#### 3. Minutes/Actions from last meeting :

May minutes - accepted without amendment. **Action – Marion** to arrange for these to be added to the school website.

Updated AGM minutes have now been added to the school website.

New year 7 parents evening – Mike and Marion shared the new information leaflet on 'Parent involvement' groups, to go into the new year 7 welcome pack. **Action – Marion** to forward the leaflet to Jon Norden for authorising.

Meeting dates for next academic year – Feedback not yet received from Jenny as to whether dates proposed at May meeting have been accepted by school or any clashes. New calendar not yet on school website. **Action – Pete** will check if dates have been accepted and added to new calendar.

Unavailability of appointments for Parents' Evening – Jenny has not yet fed this back to SLT, **Action – Pete** to feed back at next SLT meeting.

#### 4. Matters arising:

Parent Council Survey – Marion still to liaise with Alastair in digital services, to see if we can get this set up for year 9 PCE on 4<sup>th</sup> July. **Richard** and **James** have volunteered to approach parents with the survey on that evening.

New year 7 parents evening - Richard was unable to attend this meeting to film PC part of video, will therefore finalise video by liaising with Mike. **Action – Richard and Mike** to liaise re video and forward to Jenny Thornton in time to be added to presentation at new year 7 Parents' Evening.

Suggestion box – following on from comments in suggestion box, members suggested having a "you said – we did" section on the Parent council website page. **Action – Marion** to liaise with Digital Services regarding this.

#### 5. Life after levels:

Pete Golding provided a summary of how this applies to Abbey Grange Academy students. Here is an overview:

When students join in year 7 (key stage 3), they will be placed into one of 6 Tiers, Tier 6 being the top Tier and Tier 1 the lowest, based on their KS2 data for English and Maths. Students are tiered in all subjects, and generally the Tier for science-based subjects will depend on maths results.

Students will be tiered in humanities-based subjects according to their grade in English at the end of key stage 2. This way, students may be in a different Tier for English and Maths. They will remain in this Tier if they remain on target for their expected grades.

Some Grade descriptors are still to be written.

Pete asked those PC members with children in KS3, what their experience of the Tiers and levels have been so far. Most stated that they were not fully clear about how the Tier system worked and suggested they would find it helpful to have a booklet attached to the child's progress tracking report, outlining some information about the Tiers and Levels.

Another option would be to provide parents with an information leaflet at PCE evenings. Year 8 parents would also need to be made aware of the changes to year 9 Levels (start of KS4) , expected Grades and target Grades. **Action – Pete** to action the above points and report back to Parent Council at a later date.

**6. Feedback on/ finalising video:**

Please see note under matters arising. **Action – Mike and Richard** to finalise video in time for the new year 7 Parents Evening.

**7. School and staffing updates:**

School updates – Senior leaders are in the process of creating new action plans. These will be due in 2 weeks' time. The focus is on 'stretch and challenge'.

Staffing updates – there has been a significant turnover of staff, with movement both within the MAT, including staff promotions, as well as out of the MAT, with some staff leaving teaching altogether.

PC acknowledged that this may well be a national trend, and Pete had confirmed it appeared to be the case. Pete reassured PC members that most of these teachers had already been replaced, and Abbey Grange Academy is gaining some experienced as well as newly qualified teachers, ready to start with the new term in September.

**8. Any other business:**

Website update – PC reported to Pete Golding that staffing changes have not been updated on the website. Changes of key staff in particular, for example recent changes in Vice Principal, Achievement Director and Abbey Managers should always be updated immediately. PC requested this be updated in time for the new year 7 Parents Evening on 28<sup>th</sup> June. **Action – Pete** to liaise with Digital Services.

Communication – PC members raised a communication issue. Parents sometimes receive a 'child not in school' notification when they are, in fact, in school, but may be involved in a designated activity. Pete clarified that the legal register is taken in period 1, and where a teacher has not received a notification, may mark a student as absent at that time.

Students are therefore encouraged where possible to register at this lesson prior to attending the activity, but parents have also requested that notifications are sent to teachers

re child activities which mean they cannot attend registration. **Action – Pete** to feed this back to school.

Sixth form – Pete also clarified that registration will be tightened up on for year 12 and 13 students.

Lack of teachers or lack of specialist teachers at key times. Concern was expressed by PC about teachers leaving in key years in school, such as GCSE year, or before exams, as well as some students in key years being taught by general teachers, rather than teachers who specialised in that subject.

PC stated that as parents they would like to be informed about such changes, with information on how the school is dealing with these. Pete suggested that school would not wish to cause parents concern by providing such information. However, PC encouraged the Academy to take a transparent, 'open and honest' approach with parents – thereby further strengthening trust between the Academy and its parents, as well as minimising rumours. Also – it provides an opportunity for the Academy to provide assurance that it is acting rapidly and effectively to address the issues – e.g. by securing new staff to replace those leaving.

**Action – Pete** to feed this back to senior leadership team (SLT).

9. **Date of next meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30pm, Chapter House.

