

Parental Forum Meeting. Wednesday 18th November 2015 @ 1800

In attendance:

Councillor Teresa Simms
Mr Andy Dempsey

Chair of Governors
Director of Children and Young Peoples Services, Local Authority

Mr Toal
Mr Clarke, Mr Ross, Mr Nunnery
Mrs Back, Mrs Wellens, Mrs Winnard, Mrs Mulhall

Head teacher
Deputy Head teachers
Assistant Head teachers

Parents/Guardians of students at the school

Preamble

The evening was an opportunity for parents to review the improvement in the school since the last forum meeting and to be able to express any concerns they had relating to their experience of the school

Improvements since last meeting in July

- ✓ Improved examination results
- ✓ Increased capacity in SLT
- ✓ Creation of a T and L room
- ✓ Extension of LEAP Training for teachers
- ✓ Improved capacity in Pastoral teams
- ✓ Steady numbers on roll
- ✓ Successful open evening
- ✓ Welcome mass for year 7 and feeder primaries at the Cathedral
- ✓ Distributed Quality Assurance Cycle

Specific Areas of Concern

Area of Concern	Improvement	Impact	Parental Concern
Parents' Evenings	Extended to 5 hours with an afternoon and early evening session Focused on a central location Arranged through an appointments system with 5 minute slots Parental Questionnaires on the night	Better communication Smoother evening Higher quality dialogue Immediate collation of any issues Better response time to issues	Logistics and the ability to see all staff in the time allocated Communication of times
Pupil Reports	Staff training on student targets Review of overall school student targets and these are more robust Report format clearer and mirrors class work of <u>WWW/EBI</u> Issuing of termly monitoring reports	More focused reports Improvements in the quality and quantity of data Contributes to the culture of Progress	Accuracy of data Quality of comments? Do these triangulate with comments in books and other progress info? Can parents receive a summary of student targets in all areas as soon as is practicable in the school year? The authority would expect this as a minimum standard and the school accepts that this required Parents are receiving a full summary of this data w/c 30/11 but the school accepts that a summary document is required in advance of this and in moving forward will put this in place
Homework	Quality assurance of standards Introduction of show my homework and appointment of staff member to review efficiency English issue homework books as well as classwork books	Becomes more a part of the lesson Improved quality assurance to improve standards Holding staff to account more	Types of homework set Is enough homework being set? Is homework set when staff are absent and the lesson being covered? Students coping with the paper trail Access to the key information to facilitate completion of work
Discipline in lessons	New Rewards and sanctions policy through pupil voice	Better behaviour, more focused lessons and	Disruption to progress and impact on discipline on supply and cover staff

	<p>Same day sanctions</p> <p>Staff training and development sessions on Monday evenings</p> <p>SLT accountability meetings</p>	<p>improved progress</p> <p>More confident staff</p> <p>Developing a culture of transparency and responsibility</p>	
Standards in Exercise books	<p>Ofsted standard Triangulation Process</p> <p>MAD time</p> <p>Purple pen exercises (Embedding learning)</p> <p>SLT accountability meetings focus on standards</p> <p>Book reviews/scrutiny. Findings?</p>	<p>More focused learning to accelerate progress</p> <p>Tackling of underperformance of staff</p> <p>celebration of good work</p>	<p>Is marking consistent with school policy to promote and protect standards?</p>
Exam Timetables/Revision	<p>Being set up on new look website</p> <p>Parents contacted regarding information</p>	<p>More informed students/parents</p> <p>Improved communication</p> <p>Better student/school preparation</p>	<p>Can this information be communicated to parents earlier?</p> <p>Do not lose focus on other year groups i.e. not just year 11</p> <p>Will the new website accommodate a section on this area?</p>
Staffing and Supply teachers	<p>Inherited a school with an absence rate of 6.3 % this is currently less than 3%</p> <p>More robust measures in place for staff absence requests</p> <p>Increase in cover supervisors whilst no substitute for class teachers can be a better substitute for supply in terms of knowing the students</p> <p>Long term supply know the school and the parents</p> <p>We should write to parents with an update if the supply is long term</p> <p>English department has written to parents of pupils affected by absence this term and adjusted the timetable</p>	<p>Regular teaching staff will improve discipline and accelerate progress for learners</p> <p>Challenges an absence culture and replaces with an attendance culture</p>	<p>How will the school ensure that standards do not drop?</p>
Website	<p>Being reviewed and changed</p> <p>More streamline to cover 6-7 main areas</p>	<p>Shows we have a better grip of our school</p>	<p>Will the restyling accommodate consistency and transparency?</p>

	<p>Allocated pages for students/ parents etc. Canvassed staff and student opinion Parental Portal has been set up and the school will aim to go live with this in the next term</p>	<p>Better PR May motivate more people to visit the site more Becomes a better channel of communication Facilitates consistency and transparency</p>	<p>Can the parents access a specific portal as is the case with other schools locally?</p>
Monitoring and Intervention	<p>SLT now have roles in monitoring progress of key groups Intervention still mixed across the school BUT some subjects i.e. English have had KS3 targets monitored by the LA. English and Maths mock exam papers are quality assurance by principal examiner.</p>	<p>More accurate data allows for better understanding of start points Staff can gain feedback on current monitoring, target setting and marking</p>	<p>Can the school there is sufficient intervention pertinent to the needs of each year/group of students? What assurances can the school give that their assessment of learning need is accurate in order to set accurate targets and to develop suitable strategies?</p>
Data	<p>Data systems are much more sophisticated to facilitate good monitoring and intervention.</p> <p>Well-structured systems are in place. (This includes SLT roles, AHTs and Progress Leaders aligned to each Year group)</p> <p>After school intervention sessions for all subjects every evening offer a bespoke programme for Yr 11.</p> <p>Intervention offered under many different 'guises' both in class, out of class and by parental liaison. Via academic or pastoral support depending on a careful analysis of need. This is strongest in Year 11 but is extending across all year groups thanks to the new structures.</p>	<p>More accurate data allows for better understanding of start points.</p> <p>Improved focus on areas where intervention is required both swiftly and robustly, following each data drop. Ensure continuous challenge of any underachievement either by individual pupils, cohorts, year groups or subject areas.</p> <p>All year groups carefully monitor the progress of all</p>	

	<p>Some subjects are externally validated i.e. English have had KS3 targets monitored by the LA , Maths papers are quality assurance by principal examiner. Others have an internal process. Further external validation will be introduced.</p>	<p>pupils and underachievement is challenged from the start.</p> <p>Staff can gain feedback on current monitoring, target setting and marking.</p> <p>Validity of predictions and assessment is increasingly robust</p>	
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Other Points

Communication with parents is still a bit hit and miss. The school needs to look at systems to improve the delivery of this Options Evenings. Concern over the potential for the current year 9 to “miss out” on assistance at the expense of year 8 with whom Options are also being introduced

The Governing body is grateful to parents for their attendance and contribution

The school is committed to posting the summary of the pertinent points of the meeting of the school website within 7 days of the meeting taken place (25th of November)

Meeting ended at 1945