

Minutes for Academy Parents Forum Meeting
Wednesday 26th April 2017

PRESENT:

School Staff: Stuart Smith (SSM), Cordelia Macmillan (CMA), Ann Bourne (ABO)

Parents/ Carers: Clare Travers, Rachel Russell, Mandie Miller, Darren Edwardes, Sarah Tadros, Melissa Smith, Vanessa Boorman, Trevor Sherwood, Annette Sherwood, Sue Burgess, Bev Jenkins, Elly Dove, Dawn Frost-Smith

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Apologies: Mr Snelling, Sarah Stone</p>	SSM
2.	<p>Presentation by Carrie Normoylee from My Future Starts Here</p> <p>CN explained how My Future Starts Here began working with the academy. It was explained how MFSH works with each year group, for example in year students are supported in their subject choices with speakers coming in from a variety of industries. In year 10 students attend a careers fair for a morning and they are set tasks to complete to enable them to move around the fair and talk to different people. They also experience confidence building sessions and then an apprenticeship session which leads into Lions Den where they work in groups to come up with a pitch and deliver to business advisors. They also experience college taster days. In year 11 they have one to one career interviews.</p> <p>It was raised at the meeting that parents should receive letters/communication about students completing college applications.</p> <p>Action: CMA to send letters to parents.</p>	CN
3.	<p>Development Item: Raising Aspirations</p> <p>CMA explained about the Raising Aspirations Programme. Starting with year 7s who all visit University Of Brighton where they get a taster of what it would be like to attend university. Year 8s work with UoB student ambassadors who come to the school and work in small groups with our students. In year 9 and 10 students attend 3 university taster days. We are currently looking at getting a speaker from UoB to come into school and give a talk to parents and students on the financial aspect of attending university. We are constantly looking at what we are doing, what went well and how we can improve on ideas for raising aspirations. The meeting broke off into groups to work on what we are doing well and what we could improve on. Some of the ideas are below and this will be fed back at next meeting.</p>	CMA

	<p>Working Well...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Visits • My Future Starts Here – very positive • 3 year for options • Career talks from local businesses • Pride Dissertations <p>Could be improved on...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication to parents on career progression • Visits to Sixth Forms, vocational and academic • Ex-students coming back • Broader range of career talks • mentoring as a way of improving career/life aspirations 	
2.	<p>Minutes of that last meeting</p> <p>Following on from development and perception of the academy and the ideas raised at the last meeting, we would welcome support from parents at open mornings and parent consultation evenings. Our next open mornings will be 11th and 12th October. The open day for the community and the PTA will progress but priority at the moment is exams. Regarding ARD it was very well attended at 90%. The parents raised some ideas for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merge ARD and parent evenings • Targeted meetings • Activities on ARD to go on later • Clear activities for students to do on ARD • Perhaps a set focus for each year 	SSM
4.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of reports was raised as to the confusion of what is put on the report and what is said at parent evenings. The progress on reports can show concern but when speaking to teachers they don't have concerns. SSM assured that we will look at reports again and discuss with the middle leaders. It was also raised about having a letter of explanation on other non-core subjects. • It was raised about detentions and students being late to class after PE. Staff should check with PE department if a child is late to class. For any detentions set a text should be sent home that day. • Behaviour at break times was raised, SSM explained that staff are on duty inside and outside the building at both breaks. Staff wear hi vis jackets and patrol around the grounds. He did ask that if students have particular problems with certain areas that this is reported to staff. It was asked if parents could have some feedback on behaviour. <p>The next meeting is 14th June 2017</p>	SSM