

Present:

Staff	
Jon Lawson (JL)	Assistant Principal
Andy Burton (AB)	Principal
Joanna March (JM)	PA to Principal

Parent	Child(ren) in Year ...
Kelly Castelete	7 & 9
Amanda Colyer	10
Nichola Farley-McFadyen	9
Esther Gray	10
Stacey Hill	9
Joanne Lawson-Love	7
Kenny Muir	9
Angela Nobre	9
Ana/Artur Pereira	8
Vicky Robertson	7
Sandra Summerfield	9 & 11
Rosetta Tickner	13

JL welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Andy Burton, the new Principal.

1 Matters arising

- Parent Information Evening – Online Safety – confirmed as 1 March 2016.
- Chelsea's Choice was performed to Years 7, 8 and 9. Feedback was that it was very powerful. **JL to look into the option to see if there will be another performance as some pupils missed it due to taking part in another activity.**
- Sex education lessons – single sex format. JL confirmed that the plan is to deliver these.
- Show My Homework – staff training has now taken place and any existing issues have been resolved.
- Curriculum – Year 9 Option structure has been changed. 100 pupils have been identified who would be suitable to follow the Ebacc pathway. Pupils will be encouraged to choose a language, but not forced to do so. If appropriate, pupils will be able to do Portuguese as an additional GCSE. Discussion over whether or not it is advisable for pupils to study a language at GCSE level. JL confirmed that only one university currently stipulates that applicants must have a language for all of its courses. However, it does stand young people in good stead. AB added that it keeps options open for the future and shows a young person who has a breadth of knowledge and skills. The Government may force schools in the future to make all pupils do a language, but for the moment we will strongly advise some pupils to do so, but the choice is personal, in consultation with parents. The question was asked as to why the position has changed from what was said at the last Parent Forum meeting, ie that the majority of pupils in Year 10 would have to select a language. JL responded that the Government is now consulting more widely and is not yet making it compulsory for the current Year 9 pupils, but has stated that this will be the case for current Year 7 pupils. There are serious problems with recruiting suitably qualified language teachers. Discussion over the languages offered and what is required in today's market. AB confirmed that with this in mind the Academy is currently looking at the MFL curriculum moving forward, but the current Year 9 pupils need a background in a language to be able to move forward to GCSE, so only French and German will be offered for them. It was asked if it is only the top set English pupils who can study two languages, but JL confirmed that this is no longer the case.

However, it could be that pupils who are strong in English are also good at languages, so there may be a coincidental link.

Timing of the option process was questioned – is there enough time? JL responded that the process has been brought forward this year to ensure adequate time for curriculum planning, but if it is felt that the timeline is too tight then the deadline will be adjusted.

One other Curriculum change from the last meeting – English and Maths intervention for core PE time in Year 11 only. Pupils may be taken out for a 6-week period for additional intervention.

Parent Pay – JM informed the forum that Groupcall, the company providing this service, had been experiencing data system problems, so this is currently on hold at the moment. **An update will be provided at the next meeting.**

2 Possible alterations to the structure of the Academy day

JL outlined the aims, ie to allow more time for good PHSE guidance in form time and returning to a single lunch break, not split as it is at the moment. Two possible options are proposed, either starting earlier or finishing later. Single lunch break can only happen if we can increase the dining capacity and solutions are being considered for this at the moment. It is not feasible to build a new canteen in terms of cost and time, although this may be considered as a possibility in the longer term. Concern expressed over pupils who need to pick up younger siblings from the primary schools. It was acknowledged that this could affect some families but we need to address the needs of all pupils. It was suggested that primary schools may be happy to hold on to younger siblings for the extra time. Some forum members felt that the current school day is too short in comparison with the other Corby schools. AB explained that there were restrictions in the hours that teachers are legally employed for, so we couldn't add any more time onto the day. Some concern expressed over how long the pupils currently queue for their food. AB acknowledged that the current system is not satisfactory, but that solutions were being considered. **Parents will be consulted on changes to the school day and a decision made in due course.**

Year 7 base – AB informed the forum that this would not be happening now, mainly due to cost. One parent expressed concern, as this was why she had decided to apply to Kingswood for her Year 6 child. **This needs to be communicated to the prospective Year 7 pupils.**

3 Andy Burton – Vision for the Academy

AB talked about his vision for the Academy. The Academy needs stability in terms of leadership, results need to be improved and better behaviour structures put in place, with future Ofsted inspections to be judged at least Good. He has introduced a new Teaching and Learning policy, new behaviour sanctions systems and will be recruiting for two new Deputy Principals in the near future. He is not introducing new rules, simply enforcing existing ones. The question was asked if there is a high turnover of staff – AB responded that currently we will only need to recruit 6 staff for the next academic year, mainly due to staff who are moving on for promotion and for a small number of positions that are currently being filled by long term supply. There are currently problems nationwide recruiting for teachers in core subject areas. There will always be staff turnover and we do want new staff with fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Discussion ensued about the recent Parent's evening, ie the change of venue and the online booking system. JL confirmed that Lisa Hedges, one of the Assistant Heads, is currently working on any teething problems with the booking system. For future Parents' Evenings, it will be detailed on the leaflet which teachers are in which venue.

Some discussion on uniform and the opinion that some rules are petty. AB responded that the uniform code is Trust wide and is a great social leveller and that the rules will be enforced.

Discussion on changes to performance measures (Progress 8) and some concern expressed over last year's results. AB responded that SLT, led by himself, were working with all staff and the Trust to improve results and ensure that all pupils make the best progress they can. He reiterated the problems facing all schools with recruiting good teachers for core subjects, but emphasised that all was being done, both within the Academy and with the Trust, to recruit highly qualified and experienced teachers.

'Study Hub' is an after school homework/revision centre, set in the Sixth Form workroom and supervised by staff. Identified pupils will be encouraged to attend, but this will be rolled out in the future to other pupils. Transport home was raised as a barrier for pupils staying after school. **AB will look into the possibility of putting on a minibus, but there may need to be a charge for this.**

Access to the site for parents dropping off and picking up pupils in the morning was clarified. Parents/ carers are allowed to come onto the site to drop off in the mornings, but not to pick up in the afternoons. **JL to see if the exit gate can be left open in the mornings.**

4 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 March 2016, when the topic for discussion will be 'Bullying and Behaviour'.