

Present:

Staff		Parent	Child(ren) in Year
Jon Lawson (JL)	Deputy Principal	Kelly Castelete	9 & 11
Matthew Van Lier (MVL)	Deputy Principal	Stacey Hill	11
Andy Burton (AB)	Principal	Louise Neal	8 & 9
Sue Johnson (SJ)	Senior Administrator	Ana Pereira	10
		Kenny Muir	11
		Tina Collins	8 & 9

JL welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new academic year and introduced Matthew Van Lier, Deputy Principal responsible for Rewards and Behaviour.

1 Matters Arising

Showcasing students' work: The work is almost ready to be displayed.

MILK: the Academy is switching platforms to 'Classcharts' to be introduced after the October holiday.

Newsletter: a second revised newsletter will be published at the end of this term.

2 Rewards

Last year, the Senior Leadership Team recognised that the Academy did not have an effective method of rewarding students and there needed to be processes in place that rewarded the good students and to manage those who did not live up to its values. After listening to Middle Leaders and Student Voice (a questionnaire was distributed to all students with over 700 returned) the new Reward system was introduced.

The new system recognises good behaviour and performance by awarding iPoints (inspiration points). Staff are monitored on a weekly basis to ensure iPoints are awarded fairly.

20,000 iPoints have already been awarded this term, with pens being awarded to those students who achieve 50, 100 and 150 points. Certificates are also presented which are handed out in Form time (as requested by students). Form Tutors also hand out Praise postcards, which are a set of four spelling the word 'Praise'. Outstanding performance is awarded by the presentation of a bespoke tie at a celebratory event, last year attended by our local MP. There are many other ways the students are rewarded, Pizza lunches, celebratory breakfasts, Discos and a Summer Barbeque to name a few.

Academy Ambassadors are provided with yellow lanyards and special privileges. The Ambassadors are responsible for three groups, 'School Council', 'Safety and Wellbeing' and 'Community and Charity'. These groups are led by Sixth Form Ambassadors and supported by the younger ambassadors. A Head Boy and Girl, and Deputy Head Boy and Girl, are also elected.

Emergency Services Cadets were introduced last year, with 30 signed up for this year.

3 Behaviour

MVL distributed a handout of Exclusion statistics for the last two previous academic years. There has been a significant reduction in the number of exclusions and already this year the Academy has lowered the figure from last year by lowering the bar as to what is tolerated or acceptable. The Academy is making progress, with the number of most challenging

students on the decline, which is a significant improvement. In fact our visiting PCSO has commented that the Academy environment is calmer than the other schools in the town.

A member of the Forum was particularly concerned about low level disruption and was reassured that there is now a tight system in place.

A new reporting mechanism was introduced to minimise the impact of disruptive students on the others in their group. Disruptive students who receive a warning in class are removed to calm themselves and to complete a Reflection sheet. If a total of three warnings are recorded on the system during one day, the student will be removed from the lesson to work in small cubicles in Internal Exclusion, where they are monitored by Senior Staff to ensure they are working well. Students who continue with poor behaviour are placed on report with parents becoming involved.

Two members of the Forum were particularly concerned about the new initiative of identifying Year 11 students on a poster who were above or below their targets. Year 11 names would be included in different bands on a pyramid diagram and displayed at the Head of Year office which could encourage healthy competition. This context was copied from outstanding schools and uses an average of all subjects to place students. The Academy needs to be honest with the students early in the year (there are 5 indicators over the full year). The members felt that the poster could be detrimental to some students who were already feeling stressed and the Academy should take into consideration other issues why students were not achieving. It was decided to refer the matter to Student Voice to establish their views.

MILK is being replaced by 'Class Charts' which will be introduced after the October holiday. This system is an effective system with parents being able to download an App to monitor attendance, behaviour, iPoints and receive emails.

4 Any other business

Supply cover: Supply cover for Year 11 lessons was questioned. There are currently no long term cover, and as far as JL and MVL are aware the only cover is for short term illnesses.

Year 11 Parent Information Evening: Tuesday 17 October 2017 from 6.00pm – 7.00pm. Information about Study Hub and iPoints will be supplied.

Road Safety: A member of the forum was concerned that there are students riding bikes by weaving in and out dangerously at the bottom of Tower Hill Road. All gates are manned by senior members of staff and many assemblies discuss road safety. One particular bike incident was reported to the police.

Date and time of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 5.30pm. The main item on the agenda will be Independent Learning and Study Hub.

Dates of Parent Forum for the Academic Year 2017 – 2018 are:

Tuesday 10 October 2017
Tuesday 5 December 2017
Tuesday 30 January 2018
Tuesday 13 March 2018

Tuesday 15 May 2018
Tuesday 3 July 2018