



Tudor Grange Academy Redditch

Minutes of the 'Parent/Carer Forum' 21st May 2015

1. Present

Parent/Carer
Lesley Dyke
Eva Shipway
Sarah Williams
John Williams
Dawn Poole
Tina Green
Fiona Bates
Simon Coleman
Anita Stronach
Richard Armond
R Rees Principal TGAR
Apols: D Heaslegrave Parent Governor, Elaine Ralph, Tracey Drysdale, Kim Bushell, Mike James, Jayne Allen

2. Homework spot check

RRS confirmed that homework spot checks occur each half term. The spot checks audit whether the homework timetable is being implemented.

The spot check confirmed that year 10 homework has reduced this half term but year 9 homework has been maintained as per the timetable. Year 11 and 6th from homework has been replaced with revision for terminal exams.

The year 10 revision timetable has been released and it is envisaged that year 10 students use the majority of their homework time to revise for their forthcoming end of year exams.

The reduction in year 10 homework for Half Term has been raised with HoD's as clear explanation for why this should be the case need to be understood.

3. Cover/supply teachers.

The forum raised concerns regarding the number of supply/cover teachers in use. Other members confirmed that in schools where they worked this was a similar picture. RRS produced an outlined of usage by week for the past two weeks to confirm whether this was the type of KPI that the forum would find useful.

All agreed that they would find it useful that the data was produced for each meeting. RRS confirmed that she would produce the data.

The forum wanted confirmation that support was being put in place for staff that required it and that RRS was acting upon sickness and absence. RRS confirmed that the academy policy was fully enforced.

Mr Coleman asked for clarification that the data included 6th form lessons and clarified that these lessons were not usually covered with supply etc. RRS confirmed that this was the case.

4. Parent carer communication in diaries. The forum was concerned that this was not used as well as it could be and that tutors were not signing diaries. RRS confirmed that this would be raised with tutors.

5. Positive/negative feedback regarding the Academy.

RRS thanked all for the very positive comments regarding:

Pastoral support/care for students

Rapid email, twitter communication with genially very useful information

Reward system

Educational visits (the resumption of these visits was much appreciated).

The support to year 11 students in preparation for the public examinations in particular the way they have been made to feel special by attending 6th from for breakfast each day.

Some negative comments were received regarding:

Occasional disruption in some lessons where supply teachers are. RRS confirmed that as part of the new monitoring systems that in the future these classes would be visited through the day by the SLT member on call. This was raised as an issue because it is uncommon and when it occurs it is impacting on students. No particular teacher, subject or lesson could be identified as being particular disrupted or problematic. It was a comment that one member of the forum was asked to feedback.

The change in school décor many classes had been redecorated but remained blank, there is not a large amount of student work on display. RRS confirmed that décor was occurring and offered to take the forum to see the redecoration, the genius walls showing work of excellence as well as art that was used in lessons as part of the learning. It was accurate that some student work had been removed and not replaced but much of this was many years old and irrelevant in relation to the new GCSE's

PC forum visited some of the rooms in the humanities block and the majority of members agreed that this was interesting and meaningful.

6. Other school changes

RRS outlined the letter to parents seeking their view regarding changes to the school day effective from Sept 2015. The changes will enable more time in the curriculum for the academic subjects and greater pastoral support to students. It provided a staggered lunch with an early lunch for the proposed year 7 and 8 students, a reduction in the lunch break from 50 to 30 minutes.

Points that the forum asked be considered are:

The small number of students who have music lessons in lunch break and how the reduced lunch time would enable them to play their instrument as well as eat

The occasions when students could play football on the field. (The forum recognised that this was limited because of the weather)

College changes. These were supported as being very useful.

7. Date of the next meeting

The provisional dates for the next meetings are:

- Wednesday 15th July 2015 (18.00-19.00)

Please submit items for agenda by 12th July 2015