



Tudor Grange Academy Redditch

Notes of the 'Parent/Carer Forum' 4th February 2016

1. Present

Parent/Carer
Richard Armond
Eva Shipway
Sarah Williams
Kim Bushell
Tina Green
Dawn Poole
Anita Stronach
Simon Coleman
Tracey Drysdale
Michelle Taylor
R Rees Principal TGAR
Fiona Bates
Apols: J Long Associate Principal Lesley Dyke

1. Matters arising not on agenda:

All confirmed that they had received the notes from the previous meeting.

Mrs Dyke is unwell but would like it recorded that she was very appreciative of the work of the maths department and wanted to extend her gratitude to the staff in maths.

2. Admissions 2016.17 update

RRS confirmed that she was still awaiting confirmation of 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for Year 9. RRS advised that she was not expecting to be anywhere close to PAN and was expecting at best similar Year 9 volumes as per last year.

Year 7 will run two classes.

The forum expressed concerns regarding the falling roll and that it would take some time for the roll to recover post the Age Range Changes. The forum wanted to ensure that the LGB and MATB governors were aware of the strength of feeling within the community regarding the Age range Changes. RRS confirmed that the governors of both Boards were aware and realised that this would take time to recover. The focus had to be in ensuring that those students had excellent educational experiences and achieved the best possible outcomes. All agreed that this was the focus but felt that it was a pity that more students were not going to take the opportunities at the academy and the advantage of the improved outcomes.

Mr Coleman wanted to know if the board have plans to support the academy through the next financial years when funding would be low because of the numbers on roll. RRS confirmed that financial planning for the next 5 years was in place, that the governors understood that it was going to be difficult but plans were in place to support the academy during this difficult period.

Mr Coleman wanted to understand how the process for timetabling in Sixth Form occurred because the range of courses on offer could not possibly all run. RRS confirmed that the courses offered reflect what the academy can provide and will provide based on options chosen by students. The final options will still be under review right up until the September term starts. Mr Coleman was concerned to know when students would have certainty regarding options. RRS confirmed that the greatest certainty is always offered the soonest in the facilitating subjects and non-facilitating AS & A levels; the BTEC vocational Level 3 subjects may still be changing up until the start of term. This meant the ability to meet students' needs remained at the centre of planning.



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AS and A level courses were discussed at length and the forum were all in agreement that the wider portfolio was now meeting the needs of students offering them a greater chance of success.

The forum asked for clarification regarding the academy decision to continue AS. RRS explained that this provided a staging point and an assessment point for students. This afforded students the opportunity of taking 4 courses and dropping one at AS so a greater chance of success rather than 3 A levels only to find that they are struggling in one and need to reduce to 2. The forum agreed that they supported the academy decision to retain AS exams where they are available.

Concern was raised regarding the experiences of students attending TGAW. RRS confirmed the changes agreed.

3. Homework

Parents raised concerns that homework was not in line with the plans on the website. RRS confirmed that the homework scrutiny was planned which would include students and parent voice. RRS explained that changes in the academy included greater pre reading materials as homework, the use of GCSE pod, the greater use of lunch and afterschool homework clubs and setting revision in all GCSE subjects as homework.

RRS would report to parents/carers the outputs of the homework scrutiny.

4. School communication.

It was agreed that this was much better and that texts were helpful.

However the phone system still does not consistently offer voice mail/messaging as a choice and is causing confusion regarding whether the voice mail was full or available for messaging.

RRS confirmed that she would undertake a 'mystery shopper' activity and feedback to the forum.

5. School bus service

RRS confirmed that the buses had run well for a week. However the Local Authority was going to re-tender.

Parent/carers raised concern that this may continue through exams and pose a source of stress. Parent/carers asked if nearer the time RRS could write out and encourage car sharing, plus later exam starts and the ability for students to arrive early to the academy. RRS confirmed that she would employ these strategies.

The level of dissatisfaction expressed by the forum was high and the forum recognised the efforts of the academy to try and resolve this situation.

6. Performance tables

RRS confirmed that TGAR had been placed 4th in its group of similar schools - a significant improvement from last year's position of 18.

The forum were very pleased with this progress and hoped that this year would show a continued improvement.

AOB: 6th Form Ball

The forum discussed the impending Sixth Form event. RRS confirmed that she was not yet clear whether it was 'cocktail' dresses or evening wear but hoped it was more informal 'cocktail' dresses to avoid unnecessary expense. The venue and date were now set.

Mrs Bushel agreed to ask O Bushell to confirm the dress code.

7. Date of the next meeting

The next Parent/Carer Forum is scheduled for Thursday 17th March 2016, 6pm-7pm.