

Parent Forum: Meeting 1

Tuesday 13th April 2021

1.30pm on Microsoft Teams

Those present:	
Sonal Balrey	Jane Richardson
Louise Bassett	Nicola Slack
Lloyd Hughes (Chair of Governors – GHA)	Andrew Smith (Great Heath Academy)
Hannah Innis	Sarah Stevens
Bernice Ortiz	

Discussion items:		
1	Recent survey feedback	We reviewed the recent survey. There were 11 responses from parents, which was lower than expected. The overall tone of the feedback was positive. The main items were those that had been added to the main agenda.
2	Communication	<p>There is some confusion on methods of getting information to parents. We currently use ParentMail for main letters from the office, with paper copies for anyone who is not on ParentMail. As well as this, there is Class Dojo and the year-group email accounts. Some teachers also use Dojo and emails to remind parents of anything important. AS clarified that the main form of communication is via ParentMail. This means that the letters have been through the academy office. However, teachers may use Dojo to pass on a general reminder to all parents as well as to send a specific message to specific parents. The year-group email accounts were set up to allow parents to send in work during lockdown. Teachers do not tend to use those to email out to parents, as teachers do not keep a list of parent email addresses. However, staff do monitor and reply to emails sent in to the year-group email accounts. Parents do value the reminders and information sent out on Facebook.</p> <p>It was requested that parents be better informed of what pupils are studying each term. Action: AS will ensure that staff send home the termly newsletter this week with details of the termly topics, class reading text, maths topics etc.</p> <p>Parents requested the opportunity to be involved more in lessons and assemblies. Unfortunately, this is not possible at the moment. We discussed the Teams assemblies that the children have. We are not having in-person assemblies currently so all assemblies are held by Teams. It would not be possible to add parents to these as all children are shown on screen. However, it is hoped that when restrictions lessen, we will be able to go back to better involving parents in children's learning.</p>
3	Lunchtimes	Some survey comments had been made about lunchtime supervision and whether children had enough time to eat. AS explained that lunchtimes are staggered so that there are only two year-groups outside at any one time. This means that the supervision ratios are higher than they have previously been. We have also allocated some Teaching Assistants to provide additional lunchtime supervision so there are more adults outside that there have been in the past. The lunchtime is also set up so that children spend 30 minutes outside and 30 minutes eating. YR – Y4 eat in the hall, with staggered entry times and cleaning between year-group changes. Y5 and Y6 eat in their classrooms. Some year-groups eat then play, whilst some play then eat. However, they all get 30 minutes eating time. Where children do not finish their food within the 30 minutes, it is normally because they have

		<p>eaten very slowly. All parents agreed that the time provided was sufficient to eat lunch.</p> <p>It was requested that the menus revert to having the date on them. AS explained that the menus come from the catering supplier, and the lack of date may be because they can then be used across multiple schools at different times. Action: AS to feed back to the kitchen staff about the request for dates on menus.</p>
4	Uniform and PE uniform	<p>All parents agreed that they like that children wear PE kits into school on their PE days. AS explained that staff also like this as it saves a lot of time getting changed before and after PE lessons. All agreed that we would like this system to continue, even after Covid restrictions are lifted. AS explained that there is a PE uniform that should be worn, but that any children were coming in to school in a variety of different colours. Action: AS to ensure that details of the expected PE kit is relayed to parents before the end of term, so that parents can get the correct kit by the new school year in September.</p> <p>We discussed the academy uniform and the possibility of changing to a different supplier (based locally) so that parents would be able to get uniform easier. AS stressed that this could not change the uniform. Action: AS to make contact with an alternate supplier to investigate options and costs.</p> <p>Parents asked about the availability of the uniform swap shop that used to run. AS explained that this was not running whilst parents were not coming in to school due to Covid restrictions, but that we would look to re-starting once Covid restrictions had lifted.</p>
5	Any Other Business	<p>Parents asked about how the Family Support Worker was able to engage with new parents. Action: AS to investigate and report back to the Parent Forum.</p> <p>Parents asked if test papers could be sent home after being used in class so that parents could support children with questions that they answered incorrectly. Most test papers used in school are kept in children's assessment folders to be referred to by teachers. However, children in older classes often complete weekly arithmetic tests and there is no reason why children cannot take these home to work on with parents. Action: AS to pass this information on to staff.</p>

Notes made by Andrew Smith