



Date: 7th October 2009

To: Parents' Forum members

PARENT FORUM minutes

- **Welcome**

Welcome back to Forum members and particularly new members of the group.

Nikki Hastings-Smith (Assistant Headteacher) and Steve Leeson (governor) will act as links between parents' Forum and the governing body / school. Therefore, please feel free to contact either of them if you have any queries or concerns.

Nikki wishes to create a Steering Group to ensure that items are actioned and agenda set to reflect parents' interests. Thank you to Gordon for agreeing to be part of this group. Anyone else who would like to be involved, please email Nikki.

- **Parent Survey – very brief introduction and food for thought! (Nikki)**

The school will be conducting a survey amongst its students to find out their attitudes to learning and their experiences of school. Our data manager, Jonathan Cushing, would like parents to be involved in this process. Parents agreed that this would be an interesting piece of research.

- **SLN2 (Learning Platform) update (Craig McKenzie Head of ICT and SLN2 leader)**

Thank you to Craig who gave us an interesting demonstration of the Learning Platform and how it will be used by pupils and parents. By the end of the academic year, parents will be able to access information such as attendance, behaviour, rewards, assessments, timetables. This will be followed by lesson plans, resources and department assessments so that pupils can access all resources at the click of a button.

Craig also asked for volunteers to form a pilot group. This would involve you testing the software and feeding back comments to Craig. Thank you to Sally and Helen for volunteering. If anyone else is interested, please contact Craig at c-mckenzie@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

- **Parent's Forum for 2009 – 2010**

The Leading Parent Partnership Award will expire soon and so we will need to decide whether or not to reapply. The group members are keen for us to have recognition for the work that we do although there is a new and possibly more prestigious award called the Parental Engagement Quality Standard. Nikki to investigate both awards and feedback next meeting.

Parents were happy to continue with current format of meetings.

- **Uniform**

Overwhelming praise from parents for the work the school has done in enforcing the uniform policy. Parents commented that pupils look smart and this is having an impact on the reputation of the school out in the community. Thanks to all parents for your support in purchasing the correct uniform and for ensuring that your son/daughter leaves the house in the correct attire! Uniform will continue to be a focus over throughout the year. Shoes and nail varnish were suggested areas of focus for the next half-term. Nikki to feedback to Senior Management Team.

- **AOB**

Assessment and reporting – some parents felt that the year 9 reporting procedures of last year were not adequate. Now that these children are now in year 10, parents would like a more robust process. Parents are keen to maintain links with tutors but quality of meetings varied enormously. Most parents still felt that they would have liked the opportunity to meet with subject teachers. However, the point was made that staff will respond quickly to queries via email or phone call and so contacting teachers as and when needed is more effective than a 5 minute conversation with a teacher at a parents evening. The school is working hard to develop this area and



keen to receive feedback (positive and negative) as the year progresses.

Homework – year 9 pupils are completing Independent Learning Assignments. Years 10 and 11 have regular subject homework. Concern raised that this is not being set consistently. Nikki to look into this and address concerns.

Disability Equality Scheme – Dave Clark is seeking help in obtaining views and determining access needs of parents with a disability and of parents of a child with a disability. This might be physical or a learning need. Dave is hoping to revise the schools Disability Equality Scheme and Accessibility Plan. Thank you to Sonia and Sue for agreeing to join the working group. If anyone else would like to join the group, please contact Dave Clark (Assistant Headteacher) at d-clark@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

Parent governor – there is a vacancy for a parent governor. More information can be obtained from Karen Barrett at k-barrett@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

Thank you all for an enjoyable evening.

Next meeting – Wednesday 2nd December 2009 at 7.00pm

Please email items for agenda by Wednesday 25th November 2009.

Email contacts – email addresses of Forum members appear on the school's website. Please could new members email me with their email address and also let me know whether or not they would be happy for their email address to appear on the website? Thanks.

Nikki

n-hastingsmith@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk