



Making our best our standard

Wolstanton High School: Parents' Forum meeting Agenda: Monday 8th February 2016 - 5.30pm in the LRC

1. Welcome (Tessa Thomas – Headteacher)

- Introductions were made. Mrs Thomas: is delighted to see so many parents here tonight. Had the warmest of welcomes from children and staff and the reception has been overwhelming.

Notes from last meeting.

- Agreed as accurate record – no matters arising.

2. (Citizenship pupil) presentation

- **Mrs Thomas** outlined that we have a Group of Year 11s doing Citizenship and they have been doing research/topics ranging from equality Year 9s into Year 10s/disability access and arrangements around school.
- A pupil from Y11 wanted to come and share with parents at this meeting his project, however, he isn't well today. Assembly took place this morning where presentations took place.

3. Matters raised by parent

- **Lack of homework:** concerned that if he isn't aware then he can't help his children, appears that only part of Y9 homework is on Insight, eg, Hegarty Maths. Feels that 3 lots of homework a night should be set which gets children used to doing extra work at home. Homework set since September has disappeared from Insight.
- **Mrs Hobson** has spoken with Maths teacher about Hegarty, this should now be addressed.
- **Mrs Hobson** explained that if there are homework issues, these are addressed in school.
- **Agreed to investigate.**
- **Mrs Thomas** asked that any issues be raised before this meeting, so these can be addressed asap.
- Parent to let Mrs Hobson know specifics.
- Another parent said that her daughter was having difficulty accessing Hegarty Maths as it went 'down' before Christmas.
- **Mrs Hobson** reported that the technical issue should now have been resolved.
- Hegarty has replaced MyMaths.
- **Action: Maths department to present at the next meeting.**
- **ICT:** One parent said that some of the school programmes are not compatible with Mac. Mrs Hobson said that any issues should be addressed with the teacher. There are, however, computers available after school until 4pm Monday – Thursday.
- One Year 7 parent asked how she would know what mark her son receives from his homework.
- **Merit points:** The parent questioned the reason for good work or homework not receiving a merit point, where some pupils get merit points for having the correct uniform. System needs to be re-thought.
- **Mrs Thomas** agreed that positive encouragement needs to be the focus. Mr Johnson is the Assistant Head who will be looking at rewards and sanctions and he is now working on this. Each member of the SLT has been asked to undertake student voice with various groups of pupils, to ask what works and what doesn't work. More feedback to follow by the summer term.

- Another parent suggested that it may be pertinent to ask parents' views on the above points.
- **Action: Mrs Thomas to forward this viewpoint to Mr Johnson.**
- **School website/School Council:** school could work better with staff and pupils with a view to 'having a voice'. Understands that staff are very busy, however, in order for the school to make progress, it may be worthwhile for the student council to ask other pupils' for their thoughts/suggestions.
- The Shaw Education Trust are in the process of updating the website and have bought-in expertise to facilitate this.
- **Extra lessons:** The parent felt that extra lessons should be on offer from Year 7 onwards. There are a lot of staff who are prepared to offer this service, but the school should ensure this is on offer before a pupil gets too far down the line in school before support is put into place.
- **Mrs Thomas** concurred and felt it was important that the quality which young people require is built in from Year 7 onwards. 'Challenge' classes.
- Another parent said that her daughter is in Y10 and has been given the opportunity to attend extra lessons, at lunch time/after school, etc. A lot of other parents agreed with this and praised the school for their support.
- **Mrs Hobson** reported that from September extra classes are available for pupils to access.
- Another parent felt it may be that these are on offer, but need to be publicised more.
- Easter revision classes will also be on offer.
- Another parent praised the school as his daughter who is in Y7 has received peer mentoring from older pupils.
- In terms of additional lessons, are the scheduled lessons advertised to pupils/parents?
- **Action: Mrs Hobson to investigate.**
- One parent emailed the teacher to ask for extra support and this has been given.
- **Future plans:** The Shaw Education Trust and new Headteacher at Wolstanton.
- **Action: Mrs Thomas agreed to invite Jo Morgan, the CEO of the SET to attend one of these meetings to present.**
- **Mrs Thomas** has met with staff to report that there are certain things that will be changed and some that will not. Mini-schools: names not being changed/colours/uniform not changing/vertical tutor groups will remain the same. However, by September these will be called Houses instead of Mini-schools, because each mini-school has its own staff room. An area will be identified to become a whole-school staff room. Each mini-school has got a School Leader: Achievement & Support, they will become Heads of House and they will keep their title in the same house as mini-school. The Directors of School (SLT) will become Assistant Heads (SLT). This is to ensure consistency in terms of behaviour/learning/whole-school responsibility for SLT (they will have their own area of responsibility).
- **Deficit budget,** Mrs Thomas is working on this further to get the school back into a viable financial situation.
- Mrs Thomas has visited partner primary schools.
- Intention is that this summer's results will be improved on last year.
- One parent asked whether the Admin support will remain the same as her daughter works well with hers. Another parent agreed with this.
- There will also be a huge focus on teaching and learning; Mrs Thomas has already seen some really good practice.
- One parent asked what the deficit is. **Mrs Harvey** explained that there is an amount of money in reserves, which means it is balanced this year. However, there is a £320,000 deficit for next year, for which there is a plan in place. Our current Y9 was a low intake year group.
- **What is intake looking like for next year?**
- **Mrs Hobson** reported 207 at the moment, but it could be anything between 200 and 220.
- **Mrs Harvey** explained that some second/third choices may still come to Wolstanton so this number may increase.
- Another parent asked whether the deficit would affect Younger Minds and Autistic support. Mrs Thomas clarified that this would remain the same.

4. Re-launch of the PTFA (Michelle Jones)

- Michelle explained that the PTFA dwindled in numbers over the last year. However, as discussed with the Academy Council and Mrs Thomas, Michelle asked those present if they would like to join the PTFA and give their support. Diane Robinson explained what is in the funds at the moment. Michelle asked for help/volunteers at the Year 7 Parents' Evening this Wednesday. Fresh ideas and fresh volunteers would be great to help get the PTFA up and running again and the first meeting can be arranged soon. Money raised by the PTFA provides good things for the school and its pupils.
- The table top sale will be re-launched and there are many different ways in which parents and friends can help support. Any local business who would like to sponsor the school.

AOB

- **Year 9 Options 9th March** – one parent asked for information booklets two weeks beforehand.
- **Sports Awards:** One parent politely asked to consider holding this on a Monday evening because of other sporting commitments, eg, training days, etc.
- **Action: Mrs Hobson to look into this.**
- One parent raised the issue that she had heard that an intruder got into school wearing uniform last week.
- **Mrs Thomas** explained that the police are involved in this incident and the matter of school security is being addressed. Several entrances/exits are now being locked and costings for a security gate being sought. By September, or sooner, the security of the site will be vastly improved.
- **Mrs Hobson** reported that this type of incident has not happened before and it was picked up on immediately.

5. Date of next meeting: To be arranged.