



Making our best our standard

## Wolstanton High School: Parents' Forum meeting Notes: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 - 5.30pm in the LRC

### 1. Welcome (Tessa Thomas – Headteacher)

- Tessa thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and handed over to Jo Morgan.

### 2. Jo Morgan (Chief Executive Officer – Shaw Education Trust)

- Jo introduced herself. Has been involved with SET since December, her role is relatively new, was a Regional Director for Ofsted, has had three secondary headships, taking schools through from special measures to outstanding.
- **Growth and ambition: SET** multi-academy Trust has The Shaw Trust as sponsor and has been established since 1982. This financial viability is crucial.
- **WHS** is currently the only secondary mainstream school within SET. Jim Kane was the first Executive Officer and was Head at one of the three schools within the Trust at first. Secondary, primary mainstream and special schools.
- **Two clusters:** One in Staffordshire and one in the North West. Jo knows this area well as two of her secondary headships were at schools in that area.
- Scoping maximum of 20 schools in Staffordshire and 20 schools in the North West. Of great importance is the number of lives are transformed for young people and to meet their needs.
- A range of staff work at The Lodge, which is base for the SET and they have varied roles and responsibilities. In addition, the SET works very closely with the leadership teams within the SET. Challenge and support is offered to staff – this is the key driver around school improvement.
- Jo has every confidence in the Senior Leadership Team.
- One parent asked about the three new schools in the pipeline. Jo replied that two are in Staffordshire and one is in Birmingham. They are not just schools who require improvement, but have a hub of expertise within the SET to support each other.
- Another parent asked how much money is available to aid this: £1,500,000 is available to finance some significant investment in WHS building works, eg, the roof, heating, painting, flooring, etc, in classrooms. This begins from September.
- Tessa discussed issues faced within the last six months at WHS, eg, staff restructuring. In addition, it is anticipated that pupil numbers will rise which, in turn, brings in more money within the budget.
- Another parent asked whether money which comes with pupils goes to WHS budget – Jo explained that this is top sliced by 3% by the SET which is a good deal.
- **Ally:** the school was successful in bids to replace the flat roofs in the sports barn and the heating in the old block. Work is due to begin in September/October. The heating work will take place after school and at weekends. In terms of the flat roof work, it will be done in normal working hours, but will not have too much of an impact on the school.
- One parent asked about the heating works – he is responsible for asbestos regulations in his job and asked whether a survey has been done. Ally reported that this has been done and the architects have a copy of the school's asbestos register; a survey will be done before the works begin to ensure all is in order.
- Another parent asked if anything had been decided with the cricket pavilion. Ally stated that this has been looked at and it would cost £45,000 to demolish it. Architects have looked at how much it could cost to bring it back into usefulness – quite a lot of money.

- **Jo** stated that there needs to be a way of bringing in resources some other way as expenditure has to be rationalised for teaching and learning resources. However, every avenue will be explored.
- **Jo** left the meeting at this point and **Tessa** thanked her for attending.

### 3. Maths Department presentation – Hegarty Maths (**Garry Smith – Head of Subject**)

- The department introduced themselves.
- **Garry** presented a re-cap from last time and parents were asked to trial Hegarty Maths (which is a free trial homework system) for themselves on the PCs.

#### Any questions?

- Parent accounts – can these be set up?  
**Action: Garry to look into this and also a decision needs to be made on purchasing Hegarty Maths.**
- Parents were very impressed with the demonstration and said that they will enjoy working with their children on this and they really enjoy using it. During the summer holidays parents to encourage their children to log in to keep it live.
- Tessa thanked the Maths Team for their excellent presentation and for giving up their time to be here tonight.

### 4. Any other business

- **Tessa** reported that the new school website will be launched soon, there will be a lot of new material and information and we have a really good Twitter feed where everything happening in the school can be reported on.
- **Major win:** A group of Y10 pupils put together a video clip on child exploitation which they presented in assemblies to Year 7-Year 11, which put over this serious subject really well. They then entered this in a competition run by Staffordshire Police. They got 7,000 votes out of 13,000 and were presented with three trophies.
- **Helen Jackson (RE)** took a group of pupils to see the statue by Stoke Station. This was with regard to “A Man Can Fly” six week project in school.
- **Mr Lakin** has taken a group of pupils to see and work at the Lego Innovation Studio at NULC; this has been really successful for this group of pupils.
- One parent asked about research skills to help his daughter with projects in History on the Civil War. She is struggling with identifying resources and suggested that a refresher be undertaken during the first couple of weeks in the new school year.
- **Tessa** asked for the parent to let her know when his daughter is struggling so that the teacher can be informed and bring this into the lesson. This would be for anything which requires research.
- Another parent suggested that research strategies could be formatted in a document and be placed on the school’s website.
- One parent said that her son struggles with his spelling and would like extra help for him. She has spoken to her son’s teachers.  
**Action: Mary: to look into this.**
- Another parent had a query – next year her daughter finishes school – exams and prom will all be done before normal break up of school for the summer. If she books a holiday she needs to know when the prom is so she can book it. It was resolved that anything after 8<sup>th</sup> July would be a fairly safe bet!
- One parent said that her daughter is sort of looking for a part-time job – does school need to complete a form. Ally stated that school does need to **Ally** advised that the parent should complete a Local Authority form and asked that the parent’s daughter comes to speak to her to organise this.
- Another parent raised the issue of the BBC giving out computers to Year 7s – has the school received them? Tessa confirmed that the school has received micro bits so pupils may make something electronic.
- **Steve Wilkinson (Head of ICT) to be invited to attend next meeting.**

### 5. Date of next meeting: **To be arranged.**