

Parents In Partnership

Date: Wednesday 17 May 2017

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: LRC

MEETING MINUTES

Present from SGHS: A. Wade (AAW), L. Greenwood (LYG)

Parents present:

F. Carr; S. Done; C. Hawley; A. Leach; S. Nelson; C. Vereker; E. Wolstenholme; C. Aspin, E. Sandoe; I. Swales; D. Whitfield

- 1. Apologies:** Mrs Bateman, Mrs Nelson, Mrs Thomas-Smith.
AAW explained that GNF is currently absent from work and is undergoing medical treatment. Parents asked for school to send their best wishes to GNF. AAW to email these sentiments to GNF.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes accepted.

Dates for the Friends of SGHS events were shared together with the flyer for the Summer Festival event on 15 July. Friends of SGHS are keen to grow the committee and have planned to target the parents of new year 7. Any offers of help with events would be also be gratefully received and parents can email to the address on the flyer if they can give up some time. The Charity Café at Skipton Town Hall on 15th October will require quite a lot of helpers.

AAW updated the group on year 7 numbers for next year being 143 including 3 successful appeals.

- 3. Eco-Committee (Mr Clarke, Katie Tutty, Laura Goodchild)**

JNC plus the 2 year 9 students, Laura and Katie, presented SGHS's Eco-Committee work. The group consists of 10 students who are committed to working on the Eco-Schools Award Programme to achieve the highest Green Flag status. A wide variety of projects are planned and the group has already made significant impact in school. Initially auditing and publicity activities were carried out including questionnaires, competitions and gatherings. There are 9 areas within the Award and the group plan to work on all 9. Major changes so far have been improved recycling opportunities together with new signage, updated policies and curriculum plans to include eco-themes, growing our own food on school site, facilities to help students and staff cycle to school.

The two most extensive projects have been:

- Improving the school grounds with benching. Mr Newall of the site team has been busy making high quality wooden benches and these have been well-received by students. Outdoor spaces are being developed with new raised beds, greenhouse, benching and planters.
- Recycling – changing attitudes towards recycling amongst the student body has made it more successful. New purchases of blue bins for plastic bottle and competitions for new, attractive signage have come to fruition. Next steps are to focus on reducing waste as well as recycling.

The committee have planned an eco-conference in July open to other eco-school groups from West and North Yorkshire. This will enable showcasing of good practice and opportunities to collaborate. The group are also supporting the Friends of SGHS Summer Festival in July. The SAGE project will also have an eco-theme this year.

Questions and comments from the parents were that the SAGE link with a school-related project was a good idea and asked that they receive feedback from the SAGE visit once it has happened. Parents asked if all students were on-board with the work of the group. Given that over 500 responses to the questionnaire had been received the Eco-group believe they are well

supported in school. Were there plans to take the recycling of plastic bottles further? The Eco-group have worked with Catering Academy on ensuring the packaging is as eco-friendly as possible and certainly of a recyclable nature. Parents also asked if there were plans to have an outdoor classroom. The eco-group thought this was a great idea and certainly some classes already spend some time outdoor. Greater numbers of benching would be needed for this to become more extensive and the group were keen to encourage this with staff.

4. MEA Hub (Mrs Greenwood)

SGHS has been successful in its bid to be the base for the Craven MEA Hub and the Hub opened for business on Monday 24 April. The MEA Hubs are a North Yorkshire initiative/service that all schools can access for support with Minority Ethnic provision. However, North Yorkshire are adapting their previous model of basing the hubs only at Local Authority schools (with the schools themselves employing hub staff) and SGHS are the first academy to be successful in their bid to host a hub. North Yorkshire are also shifting to a model of employing hub teachers and support assistants themselves, whilst the host school embraces them as a part of their team.

Key staff: Edward Roe (Lead Teacher and Hub Manager), Lucasz Chmiel (Hub Support Assistant), Helen Smith (Hub Administrative Assistant – employed by SGHS but with funding from NYCC). SGHS and NYCC were both equally involved in the recruitment process.

The Craven MEA Hub is the 6th of its kind in North Yorkshire, put in place to support, promote and maximise the achievement of all Minority Ethnic children and young people in their locality. The hubs provide guidance and advice for schools on EAL (English as an Additional Language) support, cultural matters and parental engagement. Hub teachers and support assistants train staff in schools to improve outcomes for children from minority ethnic backgrounds, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children, Syrian (and other) refugees and any children for whom English is an additional language. They develop EAL teaching resources and share these with schools, as well as supporting with translation requirements and interpretation. In addition, a large proportion of their work (particularly the Support Assistant) consists of visiting schools to work with the pupils themselves either individually or in small groups to develop English language skills. There are often also opportunities to work with families and other members of the community in which the school is based, developing community cohesion.

The other five hubs are: Harrogate, Thirsk, Scarborough, Selby and Catterick/Richmond. Our hub is based on the ground floor of the school in the old Data and Exams office and signage is currently being produced for this and for the main school Reception.

Our hub team will work in partnership with secondary and primary schools across the Craven district. They will be spending the coming weeks making contact with, in the first instance, schools that have high proportions of ME students in the area and establishing links and partnerships. Reaching out to schools will be of vital importance. They will also be working to plan a launch event and developing an MEA page on our website.

Edward and Lucasz have been introduced to teaching staff in school and have had new staff induction. Helen was appointed on 26 April and will commence in her role after May half-term (5 June), but is coming into school for a few afternoons prior to then for her induction. The team will be line managed by Rebecca Swift (Equalities Advisor) at NYCC and will receive regular NYCC training with staff from the other hubs. At SGHS, they will be supported and line managed by LYG (and Sally Evans, who will line manage Helen Smith).

We are extremely excited about the insight and expertise this will bring to our school, as well as the impact it will have in the Craven area.

AOB

The question was raised about whether SGHS will be celebrating 100 years of women's voting right in the UK in 2018. AAW said that we would certainly be celebrating that and plans would be worked on in the new academic year.

Meeting closed: 7pm