

PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Date: Tuesday 12th February 2019

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Library

MEETING MINUTES

Present from SGHS: L Greenwood (LYG) F McMillan (FAM) E Dobson (EAD)

Parents present: F Carr, S Conroy, J Dixon, S Done, C Hands, C Hawley, S Irlam, A Leach, S Mounsey, K Roden, H Shanmugam, C Vereker

1. Welcome: Mrs Greenwood (LYG) welcomed the group.

2. Apologies:

Apologies – Carole Aspin, Jennifer McBeath, David Whitfield and Liz Wolstenholme.

3. Minutes and matters arising:

LYG followed up on matters arising and actions.

LYG passed safeguarding concern to FAM. The man mentioned was waiting for a lift and is not a threat. Hampers sold well and Friends made a good amount.

Reception now send a holding acknowledgement to all incoming emails.

Question from parent on SIMS Parentlite trial from previous meeting – can we log on without a Facebook/Twitter/Gmail account?

ACTION: LYG to seek clarification from Cindy Haymes and feedback.

4. The Science of Learning – parental engagement (EAD)

Emma Dobson (Chemistry Teacher) explained to the group her 'Think Piece' project that she is carrying out as part of her SSAT Leadership Legacy Fellowship work. She made reference to the last P.I.P meeting in which LYG and David Whitfield spoke about the Year 11 Revision Strategies Evening and the need to develop/embed effective revision and recall strategies to be successful with the new linear exams. A large amount of knowledge/content is required in the terminal exams in Y11 and Y13. EAD explained that she wants to extend the work that has been done in school already so that younger students (Year 7) will be explicitly taught and modelled these strategies. Part of this involves working with parent/carers to ensure they understand the strategies and holding a Y7 Parents Info Event. Therefore EAD is consulting this group tonight to gauge existing knowledge. Parents were asked to complete her questionnaire and did so in the meeting. EAD referenced the EEF publication 'Working with Parents to Support Children's Learning'. A parent asked if Y11 and Y7 parents will be invited to an information event, what about the years in between? LYG commented that teachers have all had sustained training on this so strategies will be used with all years in class. EAD commented that this is a starting point and we may roll out to other year group parents if it is successful.

5. Careers provision at SGHS

FAM explained that careers provision seems to have come full circle and is now receiving more funding and emphasis again. She outlined the staff who lead in careers (FAM, VAW and EAD as well as our Careers Advisor Catherine Crowther who comes in twice per week). She described the PSHCE curriculum and its role in careers education and the Gatsby Benchmarks which the Government publish as a 'standard' for schools to meet in terms of their careers provision. She also explained how we actively ask anyone coming in to school to give talks about careers pathways (e.g. musicians coming into school this week).

Our Careers Advisor prioritises Year 11, disadvantaged students and Y13 students for early interviews/guidance. Y11/12/13 can sign up for interviews at any time.

We also invite alumni and universities in regularly to talk to students as well as experienced interviewers to support medics, vets, dentists and other specialist areas. FAM also described events we put on to support careers education - the Careers Fair in conjunction with EGS (this happens in autumn every other year) and the Creative Careers even at Christmas. FAM reported

that we had a recent assessment for the Careers Quality Mark and we have been successful in achieving this.

A parent asked a question about whether we do any work on financial literacy. FAM said in Y12 we do work on this for students and parents. LYG added that we also do work as part of the PSHCE curriculum on financial management. Another parent asked how many SGHS students move on to apprenticeships, FAM answered 85% go to university. About 6-9 students in last few years. Another parent asked how many students leave here after Y11. FAM answered around 10-15 generally. There was a question on work experience and FAM explained that Y12 do this on Wednesday afternoons and during Enrichment Week. Another parent asked if there are any opportunities to visit external companies, FAM answered yes when it fits into the curriculum.

AOB:

Catherine Hawley raised a query around venues in school to eat packed lunches. The system was explained to the group and LYG agreed to monitor but it was felt that alternative venues were available.

ACTION: LYG to monitor the packed lunch rooms.

Alison Leach raised a query about the possibility of parents receiving an automated email acknowledgement for absence emails.

ACTION: LYG to investigate and feedback at next meeting.

Karen Roden asked if Y7 parents would receive a more detailed report in the summer term. LYG answered yes.

A parent offered to forge a partnership with school and invited FAM/LYG to contact her regarding them hosting some of our students. FAM thanked the parent.

ACTION: FAM to make contact with H. Shanmugam.

Meeting closed at 7.08pm