

Abbey Grange C/E Academy

Minutes of the Parent Council (PC) Meeting 6th June 2016

Present: Paul Cooper, Janet Bove, James Fenton, Emma Hawker, Richard Hamlin, Catherine Kershaw-Guy, Timothy Jacobs, Marion Kemp, Mike Kemp,

1. Chair's opening remarks:

Mike welcomed members and reminded them that our aim is to work collaboratively.

2. Apologies:

Jane Hollick, Stephanie Cassidy

3. Minutes and actions from last meeting:

Minutes checked and approved.

Member's photos – some members still to give photo to Paul. To be completed prior to next meeting.

Paul is sorting badges.

Re. comments about showering and request for clearer information to parents as to when students can wear tracksuit bottoms - Paul has fed comments back to the P.E. department for discussion.

4. Matters arising:

Parent Council representation at parent's evenings – 2 members will be available for parents to talk to as follows:

Tuesday 21st June – 6.30-7.30pm Catherine and Jane

Thursday 30th June 7.45-8.45pm Richard and James

It was decided at the meeting that we would not need to be present for the whole of parents evening (these can take three hours) and therefore decided for a one hour slot. On 30th June the talk begins at 7pm and lasts one hour, parents may only remain in school for short period afterwards and hence 8.30 – 8.45 finish?

5. New grading system - Assessment without levels – Paul Cooper

Paul presented the new system which will be in place for Key stage 3 at Abbey Grange Academy from September 2016.

The new system will replace the old national curriculum levels and sublevels.

It will still be based on the level/ depth of skills, knowledge and understanding based on the curriculum of each subject, but also enable student understanding of progress. For example, a student will not just know the 'level' they are at but be able to explain how and in what area they've progressed.

Teachers have been asked to come up with approximately 10 key concepts for their subject area. These have been further broken down into learning statements. Students are graded for each of these concepts and will achieve 'progress levels' (excellent, expected, below expected or significantly below expected). The key concepts and learning statements will be accessible on the school website so parents are able to see what students need to achieve to be able to progress.

Action – Paul to send Dylan William video out to PC members.

Students come from KS2 with a standardised score and this will be used to place them into low/middle/high ability tiers (this is currently also the case). Movement across the tiers is possible.

The focus within the new grading system is informative over summative, although skills will also still be tested in summative assessments, based on national standardised tests.

In year 7 and 8, data collection along a 4 point scale (excellent, expected, below expected or significantly expected – progress) will take place at progress tracking points, in line with the first three IMYC assessment dates. Target setting will be recorded in student's planners.

To compare own data with national data, the school has bought into a 'progress test'. This will be used for end of year tests in year 7 and 8, and give standardised scores that can thus be used for such comparisons.

All above information will be communicated to parents at 'moving on' evenings.

For Key stage 4 (year 9-11) there will be the new 'number levels', with Level 1 being the lowest, Level 8 being equivalent to current A* and Level 9 being above A*.

6. **Vivos as rewards:**

Due to time constraints it has been decided to add this to a future agenda. **Action – Paul** to invite person 'responsible' for vivo system to come to next meeting. PC would like to look at both reward and pastoral structure in general, for example, how does pastoral system currently work for the older students? Is it adequate?

Paul gave brief reminder of structure of current pastoral support system and shared that school currently buys into a service which provides both attendance and parent support, and discussion was held as to how these services could be provided in a different way. Members shared experience of success of telephone counselling for teenagers (as opposed to face to face counselling).

A good point was made during this discussion that our school holds Christian values and these should be incorporated into decisions we make e.g. around services which may be shared with other schools where we may be providing more financial support but using service less (Christian value of 'giving to others').

7. **General school and staffing updates:**

Paul provided a brief MAT update and possible further opportunities of Abbey Grange Academy forming links with other schools.

PC members expressed concern about the risk of resources being spread too thinly as the MAT expands and Paul provided assurance on behalf of the leadership team that all factors are carefully considered before a decision is made.

Members agreed that the links with other schools provides opportunities for teachers to use and develop their excellent skills across the MAT. It may also provide more opportunities for development and promotion, therefore we are able to retain these skills rather than losing them (teachers) to another school altogether.

Senior leadership team – Jenny Thornton will take on a pastoral role within this, as well as maintaining her IMYC role.

8. Any other business:

Marion requested that dates are set for the coming academic year so they can be added to the school calendar. First date of next term decided at meeting (see below). **Action – Mike and Paul** to liaise with Tracy Wood (office admin) regarding future dates.

9. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 4th July 6.30-7.30pm – Chapter House

Monday 26th September 6.30– 7.30pm Chapter House