



Report on Parents' and Carers' council meeting

Date – Saturday 13 November 2010 Time - 10.00 am

Introduction	Kate Scrase (KSC) chaired the meeting and welcomed all new members especially the families of new year 7 students. KSC introduced Paul Castle (PCA) and Moira Nolan (MNO) to the group and explained how the Parents' Council functioned.
ILPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Castle explained the new structure of Independent Learning Projects for Key Stage 3 students (Years 7 to 9). • Parents confirmed that ILPs were starting to come home. • Paul Castle confirmed that ILPs were now live on the website and could be downloaded. Families agreed that they could now download these ILPs from website. • Families wanted more book titles on ILPs to enable student research. • Concerns raised over the clarity of the Science ILPs. • One parent commented that the student planner has an ILP planner sheet which helps her child to plan their ILPs. • Whilst one parent was unhappy about only 2 ILPs being returned from a possible 8 ILPs handed in, another parent commented that her child's ILPs had been marked and returned, so there was a feeling that students were having different experiences and it is difficult to generalise from one student. • Suggestion from one parent about a mixture of ILP and homework for Key Stage 3 students. • Parents requested more ILP support sessions as Thursday evenings were oversubscribed in some instances. • Suggestion made regarding using PLS sessions to further support ILPs. • There was also a discussion about how ILP results and grades could be followed up by students and staff.
Working parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this point in the meeting families were divided into 4 groups to look at 4 specific area of the school's work and suggest ways forward in the particular areas. The four areas were Family Conference, Communication, Attitude to Learning and ILPs. After 40 minutes the 4 groups reported their findings and conclusions back to the council.
Family conference report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families were happy about the format of family conferences. • Some felt that some tutors did not know enough about the students. • Issue raised over the subject evenings which families wanted to maintain as a link to subject teachers. • Overall high satisfaction rating with family conferences.
Communications report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families happy with the range of ways that the school communicates with families –text messages, emails, school news. • Some families not receiving text messages. • Suggestion that there should be instructions in the newsletter on how email addresses and mobile numbers can be updated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families were unhappy about the admin route to contacting teachers and wanted to see some changes in this area.
Attitude to Learning report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families reported that teachers were interested positively in their children's development. Teacher commitment was complimented. School developed outside learning opportunities. The restorative justice approach taken by the school was seen as a good thing. Teachers were good at praising the students. School was good at reacting positively to problems. Families commented that there was some variation in some of the teacher feedback to students. Families wanted to know how to send information directly to staff. School news should have this who to contact list and also website needed to have this information. All incidents of poor Attitude to Learning need to be addressed using policy.
ILP report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families like the concept of ILPs and commented positively on the improvement of the website ILP section. Families require clear guidelines and advice on purpose, management and submission of ILPs. PLS sessions to be used to support ILPs. More displays of excellent ILPs around the school and on school website. Subject teachers to reflect on ILPs in the class before progressing to new ILPs. ILPs need to be recognised at the schools awards evening to raise the status.
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue over the locking of the female toilets at break times. All families did not receive the letter from the Headteacher about the grouping changes. Newsletter should have a section for families to supply email addresses. Enrichment timetable needs to be highlighted to all students and on school publications. KSC mentioned the laptop library which would be operational again this academic year. PCA informed group that Ms Hunter the new SENCO would be attending the next meeting to talk about provision at the school.
Time and dates for next meeting.	Next meeting to be held on Thursday the 13 January 2011 from 7pm-8.30pm