

Minutes

Project:
Parents' Forum

Chair:
Sarah Stokes

Academy:
Rossington All Saints Academy

Date, Time, Location:
12/06/13 5.30pm
JT Room, Rossington All Saints Academy

Date and Time of Next Meeting:
To be confirmed

Attendees:
Nicola Rowbotham, Gareth Rowbotham, Julie Beevers, Felicity Butler, John Croot, Nicola Walker, Alan Warboys, Sarah Stokes.

Apologies:
There were no apologies.

1 Introductions

Introductions were made by all present.

John Croot - Previous student and expressed an interest in being involved with the academy to help with career paths.

Felicity Butler - Parent of an SEN student at the school, expressed an interest to help and assist where she can and to work cohesively with the academy.

Gareth and Nicola Rowbotham - Expressed importance of parent partnership with the academy and wants to be involved in a supportive way as much as possible and to understand the academy developments.

Julie Beevers - Ex-student, wants to be involved in academy developments.

2 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (TOR) were circulated for discussion. They were agreed and no amendments were made. The Terms of Reference are to be uploaded to the school website.
(Action SIs)

The forum agreed to meet on the second week of each half term from 5.30–6.30pm. Dates of meetings for the next academic year are to be confirmed and distributed to all members and included on the school calendar (Action SIs). Agendas will be emailed to all members in advance of the scheduled meetings.

Parent Governors have been invited to attend this forum and will be invited again, depending on their availability. It was felt that it would be ideal if Governors could be represented. This may not be 'the' Parent Governor but a representative will be invited to attend. Parents' Forum will become a standing item at the full Governors meeting.

3 Any Other Business

The following items were discussed.

a) **Homework**

The following points were raised by parents and discussed:

- Don't see a lot at homework being completed at home/not enough set.
- General feeling of not really knowing what homework is set.
- Not clear what is required to be completed by the student.
- Acknowledgement that the admin in dealing with homework for staff was difficult.
- Parents liked Doodle as this removed some of the admin from the students.
- Parents were aware that homework may have been done in school at break and lunchtime.
- At the start of the year students get lots of homework but it has tailed off.
- Catch-up/extra-curricular is a good element of independent learning and should be included as 'homework'.
- Parents thought there was a need for better method of communication of homework to parents. (SIs to source and upload to VLE/website)
- A handbook of events, etc in school would be useful – maybe at Year 7. Maybe ideas from the forum what would be useful in the handbook.

A parent asked 'what is the purpose of homework?'.

It was explained that homework is for extension, recap, examination practice and to develop independent learning.

b) **Planners**

The following points were raised by parents:

- Students don't record all their homework so it looks like none is set.
- Students don't read their planners.
- A suggestion of rewarding students by awarding Vivo's for having their planner signed was put forward.
- Feeling that the electronic forms of planners would be more useful, which could be accessed via mobile phones.
- Discussed the issue/concern of inclusion, but that technology is a way of life. It was suggested that a pilot group could be given electronic planners (student council).
- Parents liked the idea of an electronic planner.

It was explained that planners are scrutinised in form learning time.

c) **Doodle**

The following points were raised by parents:

- What happens as a result of completing homework on Doodle?
- Training for parents on how to use Doodle was suggested – maybe on the website.
(SIs to action doodle training via a podcast on the VLE)

It was explained that Doodle is used to inform planning of future lessons/recap.

VLE

A summary of the plans for the VLE was shared with parents. This included parental access to their child's SIMS data (behaviour, academic, attendance).

It was explained that some work is in its infancy regarding the VLE. It was suggested that the parental section could house user guides to Doodle and other applications via video clips etc. The question was asked whether we can track how many parents are accessing the website.
(SIs to action)

Key Points:

- Communicate with parents via the VLE.
- Academy to continue to monitor homework setting completion rates.
- Academy to continue to monitor planners in FLT.
- Investigate the use of electronic planners and more innovative methods of supporting homework.

4 What is the Parents Agenda?

Discussion around areas of development for the academy included Parent Engagement and Student Independence.

Parents also mentioned that they would like clearer trip information eg meals not included; details prior to payment.

A request was made for a more detailed handbook eg how the school operates achievement evening etc.

5 Date and Time of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.