

Question submitted before SHIP meeting

February 2024

Q: Why did it take until February until parents received some school reports when others received them in the new year or earlier? Why was there no communication that there was a problem?

This was discussed in the meeting (please see minutes) and individual issues are being looked in to.

Q: Various questions about staffing and recruitment which are summarised as concerns in food technology and staffing in key areas.

This question was discussed in the meeting (please see minutes).

Q: Why are the lunch money cash machines not available to top up accounts/check balances throughout the day?

The academy wrote to all parents about this before half term and explained the reason for the change. Miss Relph explained in her letter on the 2nd February that the Student Council had been looking at ways to improve social time for all students and wanted to ensure that students were in supervised spaces at all times. Students can access the cash loaders in the morning before school to check on balances and top up their accounts.

Q: When will the year 7 sets be reviewed?

This was discussed in the meeting (please see minutes). Sets are reviewed after assessments by Heads of Departments.

Q: What is the purpose of 'good neighbouring' when the child who has been disruptive in their own class then disrupts another class?

We use 'good neighbour' as a behaviour management technique to support students' behaviour. If students disrupt any lesson, they are removed as needed.

Q: We note that recently Richard Rose academy are now recommending uniform trousers for school from their preferred supplier. Also, other schools in Cumbria do this in terms of the trousers being a branded item. Please could it be considered as it is extremely difficult to purchase girls/ladies' black trousers that meet your criteria that the young people will wear.

This was discussed in the meeting. Please see minutes.

Q: Why are the sports after school clubs always cancelled (e.g., football) And are there any plans to get an Astro turf so we can host football matches instead of having to play away matches all the time?

Clubs are only cancelled if absolutely needed and we communicate via our comms systems. The PE teams and academy are looking at an Astro turf and how we can look at this as a future option. We welcome parents' views on this.

Q: Are we able to directly contact specific teachers e.g., homework queries?

Yes, absolutely.

Q: Behaviour and discipline measures - I can't see if any behaviour points have been given. Would be good to see these and have a description of what they have been given for. Also how does the discipline system work? Inclusion, isolation, good neighbouring etc

We can look in to this via EduLink and will action this as a senior team. We can cover our behaviour systems in a future SHIP meeting.

Q: How can the academy gain more interest in parents attending the ship meetings

We have increased number attending from our first meeting from 3-9 parents, which is fantastic. We will continue to promote and showcase this event to all parents. We welcome all feedback from our parents and we want to work with you. Please put any ideas forward. Moving the time until later has helped and we will offer the timings of the meeting to run for an extra half hour next time so 5pm-6.30pm.

Q: There were a number of questions about communication and emails. There was a suggestion from a parent about a FAQ section.

A: The academy has communication protocols which are shared with parents and all stakeholders. Please find these attached at the end of this document.

The academy does have an A-Z of academy life and hope that this provides information for parents to access. Please find link here: <https://wla.education/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/West-Lakes-A-Z-V4.pdf>

If parents feel a FAQ section would be helpful, we can certainly look in to this to support.

Q: As more and more students are working from home due to medical and mental health conditions is the academy looking at new ways this can be achieved, for example having more than one home-schooling teacher, more class robots etc

We continue to review all aspects of our curriculum provision and how this may look for all students. We are currently looking at how we cater for students with additional needs and have new ideas we would like to move forward with. We will continue to consult with parents as we move this forward.

Q: Regarding the legacy issues from covid 19 including students still coming into the, academy from junior schools is the academy seeing gaps in learning from students and if so, is there anything in place to close these gaps?

Yes, subject leads have planned their curriculums to address any learning gaps they feel students have and teachers are always assessing students in the classroom to adapt their teaching to support student learning.

Q: Has there been any indication from Ofsted as to when they will be returning to carry out a graded inspection?

Our last Ofsted monitoring report indicates that they intend to revisit us between one to two years from the dates of that report. We continue to work through the academy's development plans.

Q: Is it possible to give predicted grades based on teacher assessment? They are not useful if based on 'if you did the exam today'

This was discussed in the meeting. Please see minutes.

Q: What are the expectations for homework set and why is this so inconsistent through different years? Or is it dependent on sets?

We have homework expectations. Miss Beckwith will share these with parents, students and staff.

Feedback:

The SEND sessions are going extremely well and are being well attended by both parents, the academy, social services, bee unique and NHS autism advisors. The last session was extremely good as we had an open question session with the whole group and then sections from each of the support members. Parents were able to speak in confidence at the end to the SENCO if required. Parents are able to speak openly with others who totally understand each other's issues which is a real support as it leaves you with the feeling that you are not alone. It is also great to see a regular section for SEND in the newsletters.

Thank you! We appreciate all parents attending any session and giving us feedback. We want to work with our parents to review how things are and make things better.