



SHIP Minutes
28th February 2024

Attendees:

Miss Relph (Vice Principal)
Mrs Deeks (Principal)
Miss Beckwith (Assistant Principal)
Mr Forrester (Vice Principal)
Miss Stabler (Assistant Principal)
Selection of parents from across year groups

Agenda items:

1. Any questions answered
2. Assessment at WLA
3. Uniform at WLA
4. A.O.B

Minutes

1. Any questions answered

Academy staff apologised as due to a technical difficulty, the questions could not be answered prior to the session. A copy of the questions and answers is provided as part of these minutes. Questions were also posed and answered as part of the session as per the minutes below.

2. Assessment at WLA

Miss Beckwith shared information about assessment at WLA currently and informed parents that we were consulting and working with all stakeholders at present on how we assess students at the academy. Miss Beckwith discussed all key points of the assessment cycle for different year groups as per the slides. Miss Beckwith explained that we assess all students' reading ages using NGRT and put appropriate intervention in place as needed. Miss Beckwith explained the next stage of this would be to use a programme called 'rapid' to look at how we diagnose dyslexia.

A parent asked a question about setting and the academy confirmed that where students were set, Heads of Department assess in their teams and make judgements on performance.

ACTION: Miss Relph to speak to the English team about set changes in Year 7

Some parents raised individual issues surrounding reports being sent.

ACTION: Academy staff will pick up these up with individual parents.

A parent asked about how predicted grades were used for Sixth Form reports. Miss Beckwith explained that this was an area she was working on with Heads of Departments at present as part of the assessment review.

ACTION: Miss Beckwith to look at this further and report back at a future SHIP meeting.

3. Uniform at WLA

Miss Stabler and Mr Forrester shared some information about uniform and a project the Student Council has been working on. A parent raised if we could have standard trousers from our uniform company as it was difficult to find suitable trousers. A parent asked if we were too specific with expectations and information shared with all parents. Mr Forrester explained that we need to maintain high standards and that most workplaces had a uniform policies that students will be exposed to. A parent shared how we could use different formats to share our uniform expectations moving forward. A parent asked if the PE kit had to continue to be branded for all items.

ACTION: Our work on uniform will continue and we will review all stakeholders feedback as we move forward. Mrs Deeks will raise concerns raised about our current uniform supplier.

ACTION: The academy will share uniform expectations in a user-friendly way moving forward.

4. General questions raised and A.O.B

A parents raised a question about staffing and retention of staff. Mrs Deeks explained that there are a range of reasons why some staff may leave and that she cannot discuss individual situations. She explained that the Trust are working on different ways we can recruit and retain staff, such as supporting teachers with accommodation if they are moving from out of area and looking at how we recruit to the Teaching School in order to train new teachers in the west. This features highly on our Academy Development and is a main area of focus for the academy. A parent asked if Governors were aware and Mrs Deeks confirmed they were and that this had been discussed at Governor meetings.

ACTION: Mrs Deeks explore whether governor board minutes could be shared on the academy's website.

A parent with experience in the primary sector shared that education is facing a requirement shortage and that it was a similar situation in primary settings.

A parent shared a worry about her child not knowing where his science lesson was.

ACTION: Miss Relph to ask our Head of Science to check all rooming for Science and we will make changes as needed.

A parent asked about curriculum changes if the academy cannot source the staffing for subject areas. Mrs Deeks confirmed that the academy reviews their curriculum offer and makes changes and adaptations as needed.

A parent asked if they could have some help with how to use the iPads to support their child with homework.

ACTION: Mrs Sunter our digital lead to support parents with this and to attend a future SHIP meeting about this.

A parent asked about students with SEND receiving detentions and how this may impact this child. Mr Forrester explained that we did not want to cause worry or anxiety at home and it is about understanding individual children. Mr Forrester explained that our SENDCo and Key

Stage leads now meet every Thursday to discuss students so that we can share information about students and how we work together across the SEND and pastoral teams to support students. A parent shared a positive experience for her child and some personal provision that had been put in place and her child was now attending the academy.

A parent asked about how we check that all members of staff are safe to work with students. Miss Relph confirmed all safer recruitment checks were completed in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education and explained this process. These checks were monitored and checked monthly.

Miss Beckwith reminded parents that our Homework Club is running every night until 5pm.

Academy staff thanked all parents for giving up their time for the meeting. As numbers have increased, we will trial a slightly longer meeting for our next meeting so that all members of the group can have a voice and share their opinions on all items.

Next meeting: Wednesday 26th June 2024 5-6.30pm.