

Parents' Forum Minutes

6pm – 7pm on 30 November 2022

Attendees:

Graham Chippindale	Clare Ayres
Catherine Williams	Vicki Watson
Helen Goddard	Chloe Favell
Sukhraj Gill (Head of Academy)	Lucy Greenwood (Deputy Head/Chair)

Apologies: Samantha Smith

Staffing

SGI spoke to parents / carers about recent staffing issues due to staff illness and some staff departures linked to the cost of living (particularly associate staff) and better salaries sometimes being available elsewhere.

SGI wanted to reassure parents / carers that we are doing all we can to recruit high-quality staff. At a recent local Head's meeting, the situation is similar in other schools. Staff sickness, lack of supply (at times) and recruitment are a current local and national challenge.

A parent asked 'what can we do about this?' SGI answered we feed into our Trust and national bodies to gain support and inform. Another parent asked if this is sometimes linked to mental health. SGI replied sometimes, but Covid and other illnesses are prevalent. One parent commented they hadn't had any negative feedback from their children re: supply, other teachers etc.

SGI explained other measures we have used to recruit, such as using LinkedIn as well as education recruitment platforms, looking at finance (where possible), rethinking roles, etc. SGI mentioned that collapsed classes have not been necessary yet, but may need to be occasionally implemented.

A parent said the recent Physics Day with Y11 was valuable and helped with confidence.

SGI talked about the tutoring we will be buying into to support any learning gaps or confidence.

A discussion ensued where parents commented on the difficulties sometimes created when relationships built with staff have to be started again when colleagues.

Safeguarding

LG gave a presentation on safeguarding at HHS. Following the presentation, a parent commented that they were reassured that all this is in place. Another parent asked a question about handovers when pastoral staff leave. LG confirmed this does happen.

AOB

Toilet Visits – locks on toilet doors a problem and another parent said their child is unable to get to the toilet in between lessons due to time constraints.

LG to chase this up.

Another parent commented that they feel their child avoids going to the toilet for a similar reasons.

Meeting ended at 7.15pm