

Present:

Staff	
Jon Lawson (JL)	Assistant Principal
Tony Meneagh (TM)	Acting Principal
Joanna March (JM)	PA to Principal

Parent	Child(ren) in Year ...
Nichola Farley-McFadyen	8
Penny Matthews	9 & 10
Stacey Hill	8
Angela Nobre	8 & 13
Ana Pereria	7
Rosetta Tickner	12
Kenneth Muir	9
Amanda Colyer	10

Apologies received from Kelly Castelete

1. Welcome and Introduction

JL welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced TM, the Acting Principal, who has come to Kingswood from Stanground Academy in Peterborough for a period of six months until the new Principal, Andrew Burton, takes over in January 2016. It was agreed that the item which was planned for discussion at this meeting, ie sex education and associated issues, should be postponed until the first meeting in the new academic year, to allow parents the opportunity to discuss some issues with TM.

TM explained that his role was to make some changes to ensure that the Academy is on the road to 'Good' when Andrew Burton takes over. His main focus over the next six months will be to address uniform and behaviour to ensure pupils are ready to learn so that they can get the best possible education and exam results to enable them to take the next steps.

One parent member expressed concern over rules which she perceived to be petty and which she felt had no correlation to learning, ie uniform. TM responded that when pupils are dressed properly and have the right mindset they perform better. He cited the example of the sixth form at Stanground Academy where business dress was introduced and this helped the students to take their learning more seriously. JL pointed out that Stanground Academy had significantly raised the performance of pupils over the last few years.

Some parent members went on to express their concerns to TM about some issues with behaviour and uniform. Parents agreed that they were happy to support the uniform rules, but that they felt they were not currently being enforced. TM agreed with this, but reassured members that from September all pupils would be required to follow the uniform policy and any who did not do so would be isolated from the main school community. The Sixth Form dress code will also be enforced more rigidly and sixth

formers will be expected to wear business dress. At this point one parent member expressed her concerns regarding the Sixth Form students – she felt that they had lost many privileges over the years and were not treated like adults. TM reinforced his view that the changes will produce a better outcome for the students. JL issued an open invitation to forum members to come into the Academy to reassure themselves that all students will be adhering to the uniform rules from September.

Discussion then ensued around setting and possible behaviour issues. JL explained that the year groups will be split into two bands, with one band being more able. The move to two bands is to provide challenge for the more able and more targeted support for the weaker pupils. There will be smaller class sizes and more adult support in the weaker band. Within both bands all subjects, apart from EPA, Technology and PE, will be set. He also reassured members that a pupil can be moved up to a different set, but only through due process involving the head of faculty. Some concern was expressed over what parents should do if they were unhappy with how their child was performing in a particular subject. JL advised parents to contact the head of faculty (details on the website) either by phone or email and if they are not happy with the outcome, to then contact the Head of Year, who will look into it further and even refer to SLT if necessary.

The move from vertical to horizontal tutoring was raised. JL explained that, although vertical tutoring has many strengths, it doesn't monitor pupil progress as well as horizontal. He also explained the rationale behind the move from five 60-minute periods a day to six 50-minute periods a day. This would allow some subjects to have time for a bigger chunk of learning, and a 'little and often' approach for some subjects, which suits the needs of some groups of pupils. JL reassured members that there was no change in the GCSE teaching time allocation. He went on to explain that break times were also changing to ease congestion in the atrium – form time will be moved to the middle of the day to accommodate this change. The atrium will also have proper seating at where pupils can sit down and have their main meal in a more formal way.

The question was raised about Sixth Form identity cards. It was confirmed that they would be issued with lanyards in the new academic year.

Concerns were raised by parent members around a recent Year 8 trip during which there were some reported behaviour issues. JL reassured members that this involved a very small number of students and that this type of behaviour is not a regular occurrence. Some members expressed general concern about behaviour in class. JL confirmed that all comments had been noted and this would be addressed.

2. The date and time of the next meeting will be arranged at the start of the next academic year and published on the website and in the newsletter.