

**Present:**

Staff		Parent	Child(ren) in Year
Jon Lawson (JL)	Deputy Principal	Kelly Castelete	9 & 11
Sue Johnson (SJ)	Senior Administrator	Tina Collins	8 & 9
Dave Robertson (DR)	Head of Sixth Form	Kenny Muir	11
Andy Burton arrived after SLT meeting		Louise Neal	8 & 9

JL welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and introduced Dave Robertson.

**1 Matters Arising**

**Black jumpers and cardigans** – parents of Year 8 and 9 have been reminded that the uniform colour for September will be black jumpers and cardigans. Emails have been sent and letters have been distributed to students.

**Academy Transport** – The final decision is pending, however, the intention is to offer a single bus for travel to and from the Academy, with the end of day time close to 3.10pm and not 4.10pm as previously discussed.

**2 Sixth Form**

Dave Robertson introduced himself and gave a presentation about Sixth Form.

There are currently 83 students in Sixth Form, with almost all studying 3 Level 3 courses, all designed to take 2 years to complete. Only the most able students study 4 subjects. The students also take part in Enrichment and support activities eg online learning, mentoring younger students, faculty support and work experience. The Academy offers trips to universities, invites speakers and provides information about apprenticeships, work and the armed forces.

Entry into Sixth Form depends on GCSE results. A minimum of 5 GCSEs at 9 – 4 (A\* - C) grades is required. Until the results are announced in August it is difficult to say exactly which subjects will be on offer as it depends upon student interest. It is not always financially viable to offer a course if only 1 or 2 students are interested, the optimum number is 10. It is hoped to increase the number of students joining the Sixth Form from Year 11, the figure in recent years has been between 25 – 30% with more girls than boys applying. Students who delay applying to Sixth Form are not turned away, discussions with Sixth Form staff and Ian Doherty, from Prospects enable students to make the right decision to move forward with their education or training. Any student who is determined to join the Sixth Form but does not have the necessary exam results will be advised to take the year out to prepare for returning the following year.

Results: Last year's results slightly improved from the previous year, with all but one student achieving 100% A – E grades. The Academy identifies any student who has failed to achieve the grades they expected, and will have prepared alternative options for them for Results Day. 80% of our Sixth Form students go on to University, last year 36 joined a university with only 1 not being offered their first choice. University is a financial commitment for students. The tuition fees are currently £9,000 per year, plus they need to pay for accommodation and other living expenses. Their final debt is taken out incrementally from their wages once they earn over a certain amount.

Pastoral support and wellbeing is a priority in Sixth Form. A Head Boy, Head Girl and Lead Ambassadors are elected each year. The students support Penyem Village in Gambia and fundraise during the year to support the villagers.

At the moment 80 applications have been received to join the Sixth Form, with almost 70 likely to be accepted.

### **3 Any other business**

Topics for future meetings were discussed. It was decided to invite Denise Robinson, the Catering Manager, to the next meeting to discuss our catering arrangements. The Forum decided that they would like to learn about the transition for students from Year 6 into Year 7. Ben Eley, Head of Year 7, will be invited to attend the first Parent Forum of the next Academic year, to provide an overview of what the Academy does, what actions/strategies we use to support reluctant students, how parents can support and how we keep the enthusiasm going.

### **4 Date and time of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 3 July 2018 at 5.30pm. The main item on the agenda will be 'Catering and canteen facilities'. Denise Robinson, the Catering Manager will be invited to attend.

Provisional dates of Parent Forum meetings for Academic Year 2018 – 2019.

Term 1: Tuesday 2 October 2018  
Term 2: Tuesday 4 December 2018  
Term 3: Tuesday 29 January 2019  
Term 4: Tuesday 19 March 2019  
Term 5: Tuesday 14 May 2019  
Term 6: Tuesday 2 July 2019