

Present:

Staff	
Jon Lawson (JL)	Senior Deputy Principal
Dan Scallan (DS)	Acting Deputy Principal
Michelle Newman (MN)	Principal

Parent	Child(ren) in Year ...
Tina Collins	10 & 11
Louise Neal	10 & 11
Kate Kinneir	7
Ana & Arthur Pereira	12
Ruby & Bernard Nhau	7
Luis Silva	7
Amanda Colyer	10
Lynn Haycocks	7 & 10

JL welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how helpful Parent Forum has been over the years and that we would like it to grow.

JL introduced Dan Scallan,

Minutes from last Parent Forum and matters arising

- Parents as volunteers at parent evenings, good idea because other parents may find them more approachable, and they will be more experienced – Parents Evening dates given out. You won't be required to go through the lengthy volunteer process. You will have a link with the Year team who will be able to help you with anything on the night. Are there any volunteers for the Year 8 Parents and Options evening on Thursday 23 January?
- DS explained how we are communicating out about PSHE now.

Topic for this meeting

Principal Michelle Newman gives us her early impressions and plans for the Academy.

MN introduced herself and gave background information on herself. Over the past few weeks she has been meeting with students. Her first impressions are that Kingswood has good foundations, she has been made to feel very welcome. Michelle shared what she and the rest of Kingswood Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have been focused on including:

- What are the Academy's shared values.
- Leadership and Management – we have designed a leadership matrix.
- Climate and Culture
- Teaching and Learning – There is a need for consistency particularly with Year 11.
- Curriculum – looking more towards the Arts, we aim to start Kingswood Arts Festival. Giving us more opportunities to engage within the community.

MN: The aim is to go from intervention heavy to good from the ground up. We are also working on mental health, students and staff, we want to make staff feel more valued and have made a start with the Kingswood Colleague Appreciation Award certificates.

Parent questions and discussion

Parents are pleased about the Year 11 intervention.

Parents shared that there are a few unhappy with the changes in science.

JL advised that he will be at the next Parents Evening to meet with any parents who are unhappy regarding science.

SLT / MN, DS & JL shared that some students have expressed they are bored at lunchtimes and advised that we are starting up more lunchtime clubs and teachers have asked to run clubs that students will like. The Mezz area is now open for Year 11, we are making the space nicer by introducing soft furnishings such as sofas. There will be extra opportunities for learning, more clubs, Manga (Anemai) club, film club, gaming club. This gives the students access to develop culturally outside of lesson time. More areas around the Academy are being opened up at break times unfortunately not everywhere can be opened up due to not enough staff for duties. Further improvements for break times include sofas in the Atrium, jugs of water on the tables, modify the water fountains to make sure there is always cold water. We will sell branded water bottles to fill in the fountains. Shorter dinner queues, more variety of cold foods on offer. We are looking at getting new tables in the next few years, hopefully round ones so people can speak to each other more easily. We are also looking at the possibility of allowing mobile phones in the mezz, what are your thoughts on this?

Discussion on computer screen learning versus paper learning

All parents opposed to students being allowed phones out during breaktimes. Although they are a good tool for learning, most parents feel students will only use them to play games on and won't talk to each other.

Discussion on whether water on tables will cause more problems.

MN: It's about changing the culture to say this is our school and this is the way we do things.

AOB

Free school meals are only on second break can this be updated to include both breaks.
Are we going to start recycling food and plastic? – Yes we have been costing up with the council to collect our food and plastic waste.

Actions

Look into getting free school meals on second break as well.
Bring dates of future Parent Forum meetings.

Agenda for next time:

Climate and Culture, looking at what our culture and shared values are.