

'PARENT VOICE' VIRTUAL FORUM Wednesday 14 October 2020

Attendance: S. Rice (Principal), I. Middleton (Associate Vice Principal). **Governors:** P. Taylor (Chair of Governors). **Parents/carers:** 6 in attendance via Google Meet

Welcome & Introduction by Chair of Governors:

Mrs Taylor welcomes parents/carers to this first virtual Parent Voice meeting. She encouraged them to use the chat button to ask questions and make comments on the proceedings.

Update provided by the Principal

- Students have settled well to the new reality in their year group bubbles.
- There is a 'September return' page on the academy website.
- The academy risk assessment is a working document and constantly updated
- Social distancing and zoning in year groups providing minimal movement
- 830 students in the building with 5 breaks and 5 lunchtimes.
- One way system, safety signage hand sanitisers round the building. Additional cleaning and cleaners
- Masks worn in communal areas with exempt student known to staff and wear yellow lanyards or stickers
- Students have excellent learning behaviour and it is 'business as usual'. There is a sense of security, routine and focus on learning.

Results from summer 2020 presented by Mr Middleton

These results come after a very thorough, secure assessment process.

- Progress 8 is +0.82 (+0.54 in 2019) with an APS of 30.
- 4+ English and Maths is 90.4% (85.6% in 2019).
- Other outstanding results well above National highlighted.
- Many students achieved highest possible results and progress in all ability groups showed the diligence of students. Many students at all ability levels were seen to make +2 and +3 levels of progress.

Other reminders of school policies and procedures

- **Aerosols, family bags in lunches and fizzy drinks** are not permitted. Reasons for this were explained
- **Cycling:** The importance of wearing helmets has been highlighted in the academy by Mr Middleton.
- **On-line:** Responsibility and safe behaviour – reminder has been given to students.
- **Go citizens:** Has focussed on responsible behaviour in the community. Any complaints to the academy from the public have been, and will be addressed.
- **Behaviour Policy:** Pyramid, CHOICES (safety), STEPS (respect), STAR (mainly in class focus on learning behaviour) and the ABCDEF of learning explained.
- **Mental Health:** Information in all classes, trained staff and access on the academy website to useful sites and support.
- **Rewards:** 'Secret student' and rewards shared with class of rewarded students introduced alongside many other reward strategies.
- **Adapting to the virtual world:** Assemblies, open evenings, revision evening and other meetings now held on line.
- **Y11:** Year 11 students have now been given 'goodie bags' to support and enhance revision and enrichment classes are taking place.

- **Parents' Evenings:** A letter is due to go out about this.
- **Bike Sheds:** Ms Rice has spoken with LA officials to try to improve facilities as more students cycle to school. There are 'zone' sheds, more stands are due to go in at ½ term, the use of a temporary tarpaulin is being investigated, funding is being sought.
- **Lockers:** There enough for all students. They will be made available in 'zones' after ½ term.
- **Parking:** The academy tries to alleviate problems for the community in this area. The Principals PA does a duty on Churchill Drive, Sainsbury's is monitored by staff, the Vice Principal checks on-site parking, staggered starts and ends to school day, separate entrances for different year groups, and staff are in the classrooms from 8 a.m. so students can go straight to class.
- **Buses:** The academy understands if students coming by bus may be late because of late arrival of buses or buses having reached capacity before the students get on at a given stop. These students will not be penalised. The bus company that was coming into the academy went into liquidation and a replacement (though tried) proved unviable. Ms Rice had consulted with the local authority with regards to general transport issues.
- **Year 7 new starters:** Having Y7 in on their own for the first day, with group assemblies, proved very successful. They have 'stepped up to the plate' and taken the new school in their stride. They have made an excellent start.
One parent said 'very impressive Y7 induction, lovely to see how well our child has settled in, thank you.'

Closing Remarks

Mrs Taylor asked for further comments, questions or observations. There were none.

Ms Rice said 'if there are any problems bother me.'

Mrs Taylor thanked parents/carers for their attendance and input. She also thanked Ms Rice and Mr Middleton for their updates and other inputs.

Parent Voice meeting of the academic year are planned for:

Spring Term -Tuesday 2 February 2021

Summer Term - Wednesday 9 June 2021