

Parent Voice Minutes – 14th July 2016

Introduction and welcome by Mrs Gill

- **A Parent felt that it is unfair to expect all students to stay in the Post 16 Centre when they do not have lessons. They should be allowed to go home to study.**
 - Mrs Gill has spoken to Mrs Shea who clarified that it is Post 16 policy that students study in the centre for 5 hours. They are allowed to study the remaining 3 hours at home if they wish. A marked increase in student's ability to meet deadlines has been noticed since introducing this policy. Student have plenty of time to study at home in the evening and weekends but we are keen to foster a positive work ethic in study periods. Students can also organise group study or pair study in these periods and there are staff around to support should they need it.
- **A parent asked if letters regarding trips could be sent home rather than given to students.**
 - Mrs Gill spoke with Mrs Shea – students are given trip letters to share with parents rather than posting them as they are considered to be of an age where they are sufficiently responsible to do this. There is always a reply slip at the bottom of the letter as most trips are optional. We will look into the possibility of posting letters home but it would still be the responsibility of the student to bring the reply slip back to the Centre.
- **A parent said she felt the first 2 weeks of Year 7 can be traumatic and some do not make friends easily. She felt that this could be eased by meeting as a year group.**
 - Mrs Gill explained that in the past year group discos have been organised to help team building but these have not proven successful as students have not attended. Mrs Gill also explained that staff are very aware of the new starters and pass any concerns to the Learning Manager who will then buddy them up.
- **A parent asked if everyone had time to get lunch as 30 minutes was not a very long time.**
 - Mr Joyce explained the all children have plenty of time and that he has checked himself and that at 11 minutes into the busiest lunch time all children are seated with their food.
- **A parent asked if we ever survey children with regards to the things they do and don't feel happy about in the academy.**
 - Mrs Gill explained that there is a box in Student Reception for children comments on things like this. It is checked daily and children do post some good ideas. These are picked up by the Student Voice team.
- **A parent raised a concern about the library as a student said that they had read all of the books (that interested him/her). Could we have a donation service?**
 - CG explained said that she would ask the librarian and would report back but explained that the books need to have a quiz allocated to them for accelerated reader.
- **A parent asked if there could be more trips and other schools in the area seemed to have lots of school trips.**

- CG explained that trips will be organised if they are beneficial to a specific subject. CG to provide a list of trips for 2015/16 at the next meeting.
- **Sports day – a parent felt that this should be voluntary rather than picking the best.**
 - Sports day consists of 4 track events, 4 field events and 1 relay. There are 5 houses (continents) and each one has 1 girl and 1 boy in each year group in each event. Therefore for each year group a maximum of 9 girls and 9 boys from each continent are selected to participate. We only have 1 representative from each house as our track only has 6 lanes. If we had more participants we would have to run heats and we simply do not have the time to run these.
 - We are restricted to this format due to time restraints. 9 events for every continent, for both girls and boys means we have 90 races/field events to complete. The field events are completed during P1 & 2 and the track events during P4 & 5.
 - All athletic events are covered in lesson time and all students receive a measured time/distance for each event. These results are recorded on a database and school teams/continent teams are chosen from this database. We allow each person to take part in 2 events plus the relay. Some elite students come first in many events so we choose them for the events where they have the most realistic chance of beating a school record. Once their 2 events have been decided we choose the second placed student for the other events. For the relay we choose the 4 fastest 100m runners and have the 5th placed student in reserve.

Mrs Gill explained that this will be the last joint Parent Voice meeting (at the request of a number of parents). Future meetings will take place as follows:

Portland: 29th September 2016
 2nd February 2017
 8th June 2017

Valley: 3rd October 2016
 6th February 2017
 12th June 2017