

Parents' Forum Minutes

Thursday 14.09.17

35 parents/MG/PTO/TOL

Mrs Gabbi, new Principal, spoke to parents about her wishes for the school moving forward. She described her 'high expectations' culture, 'no excuses' culture, no limits on potential. This will allow our students to be successful.

OFSTED expect a school to get out of special measure of 2 years. Mrs Gabbi wants to do this sooner than that and the school will be monitored by Her Majesty's Inspectors regularly

Mrs Gabbi shared some of the highlights from the first monitoring visit in June 2017. Inspectors judged that the school was '..taking effective action towards the removal of special measures'

In response to a question, Mrs Gabbi explained that the change to vertical tutoring was done to introduce a new culture within the school which is focused on progress and providing support. Inevitably, things would change in order to support students become more successful

- Some of the things that had changed were the senior staff walking around the school monitoring students and their work. MG has noticed how many children are polite and working hard.
- A new data system has been launched and will go live to parents once it is established in school. It is more rigorous than before and will ensure that key staff are aware of any issues during the year. As the system opens to parents, they will be able to monitor their child's progress.
- We have changed the pastoral system to one where the emphasis is on progress.
- Differentiation is a real focus for staff to ensure to ensure children make progress and that those who struggle and our very brightest are challenged at the right level..

Mrs Gabbi asked parents whether they would like a PTA. *If parents are interested, please contact the school and leave your details for Mr Berridge who will be running the Parents' Forum in the future. (JBE+ PARENTS)*

Mrs Gabbi asked parents if they had any concerns

1. Concern that children in Year 11 may be disadvantaged by further changes to the school and the fact that the school is in Special Measures.– Mrs Gabbi explained that Progress Leaders are focused on the progress of their group of children. *Mr Roberts, Progress Leader and Mr Jordan, Assistant Vice Principal, are working hard with Year 11 to ensure children achieve their potential. (JRO MJJ)*

2. Concern that there was a lack of support for students who did not go to university in the 6th form/lack of information about apprenticeships - *Mrs Gabbi will be addressing this with those responsible for 6th form.*
3. Website is not good enough and parents feel it needs sorting out sooner rather than later- *Mrs Gabbi is working with companies to get a better website ASAP*
4. Concern about cost- cutting – suggestion that *staff to use SAM learning to allow students to do homework not requiring text or exercise books.* Mrs Gabbi explained this is a difficulty for most schools. *(Training for staff to be arranged PTO)*
5. Parents leave messages and some staff do not get messages back- email addresses are helpful for parents who want to communicate with staff- *MG to look into whole issue of communication (SLT)*
6. Whom should parents contact if they have a concern? Mrs Gabbi explained that the form tutor was they first point of contact. *Letter to be sent to parents making it clear the lines of communication (Progress Leaders)*
7. Some parents felt that communication is excellent and problems dealt with quickly.
8. Parents asked that the return to school information was communicated to parents earlier- MG explained that would be the process for next year.
9. Information for parents could be clearer- *bus stops information to go out at a more relevant time- in summer holiday- possibly a transition booklet at start of summer holidays(Mr Berridge)*
10. Texts do not always go to parents- *Mrs Gabbi suggest that we use emails as well.(all staff)*
11. Is there an opportunity for new parents to see form tutors? Parents will be invited to see Year 7 on 26th September 2017
12. Some parents feel that the reports sent home was very valuable in keeping them up-to-date. Some parents were not so sure. G4S allows the school to provide each parent with the relevant information via the Go 4 Schools website. It also allows parents to keep the copy for reference
13. *Parents would like reading lists for Year 10 students- departments to be asked to provide this. (PTO)*
14. Parents ask what PP money is allocated for – TOL explained that the process is very different from primary school where the money is often allocated directly to parents. Montsaye uses PP money for staffing key posts related to provide additional support for PP students. The information on how PP is spent is on the website and will be updated shortly. The evaluation of money spent in 2015-16 is available on website Montsaye Academy Pupil Premium spending 2015-16
15. One parent felt that PSHE was often wasted time- Mrs Gabbi explained that this had been changed this year and outside speakers and events will be hosted at school. Ultimately, we hope to have more of it embedded in the curriculum. Mrs Lopes manages SMSC, which incorporates some excellent topics and is used by all tutors during morning registration.

Thank you very much to all the parents who attended. As always you gave us lots to think about!

See you on 9th November 2017 – 6-7pm in Library

