



PARENT FORUM MEETING

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st January 2015 AT 19:00 IN THE LECTURE THEATRE

PRIORY GOVERNORS PRESENT: GAR, PQ, JG, and MB

APOLOGIES: AW, SH, PC

HEADTEACHER: TS

PARENTS: 14

ALSO PRESENT: Emma Brinkhurst (Clerk)

Pauline Quinton welcomed parents and introductions were made.

The Lewes Co-operative Learning Partnership (LCLP) update

GAR gave an overview of the progression of the LCLP explaining the schools involved with us as a Foundation School is Western Road. The five partner schools are South Malling, Southover, Rodmell, Pells and Iford and Kingston. We will still be a Maintained School through ESCC, our budget still comes through the Local Authority (LA). The LA will be a Partner within the LCLP. Each individual school within the LCLP still has their own Governing Body. Priory thought about becoming a trust for about 3 years and looked into various models. An example of the Schools working together as part of the LCLP was when Western Road had no Headteacher and one of our Senior Leadership team covered this role for two terms.

The main reason for becoming an LCLP:

1. To deliver the best education for all students at the schools.
2. Working as an LCLP means all the schools can pool their resources together.

Two structural meetings have been held for the LCLP, the trustees from all the schools were agreed and it was decided GAR would be the Chair. A formal launch for the LCLP is being planned for spring/summer.

TS went through the strands of the plan for the LCLP:

- a. Mathematics We will be starting small with Mathematics as the school believe that Primary Schools do a lot of repeating and there is a gap in Year 6 and 7 with students' knowledge.
- b. Literacy/writing – The Head of Iford and Kingston will be running a writing competition that all students can enter.
- c. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) – Southover and Iford and Kingston schools will be running an engineering working project that families will be able to get involved in.



PARENT FORUM MEETING

MINUTES

- d. PPI (Disadvantaged students) – Little communication is received from the Primary Schools at present about the PPI of students it is hoped that interventions can be put in the place so this information can be received from the Primary schools to help with a seamless transition for the new Year 7 students.
- e. Forest Schools – Priory next year want to be a forest school the ground work for this has already started and it is hoped this September this will be up and running. Pells School already have a Forest School. The school is working with the Linklater Pavilion and the South Downs National Park. The forest school will be used for a whole day by certain pupils each week. The forest schools will teach students about i.e. cooking their own food, learning about the forest and working in them. This would also cover aspects of the curriculum including Science, Numeracy and Literacy. Running a forest school is hoped to help keep the school's exclusion rate to a minimum.

Q What will the age range be for the forest Schools?

It will be for Years 8 and 9.

Q Now the School is part of the LCLP does the School receive any further external help?

We receive additional funds from the LA for use for school to school improvements due to the LCLP.

Q In the future would the trust branch out and invite more primary schools or perhaps a sixth form college to join the LCLP?

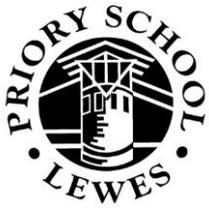
The LCLP can have many partners - a possibility in the future that has been discussed is working with the Universities but there is no capacity for this at the moment.

Q Is the Trust model the school is using a common model used by schools ?

It is a common model in Cornwall, Devon and Lancashire. TS said that he has attended two meetings where other ESCC schools want to be a trust. 18 months ago there were about 400 partnerships now there are about 1000.

PQ thanked GAR and TS for the update.

PQ explained to those parents who have not attended a Parent Forum before that the purpose of the forum is to give parents the opportunity to ask the Headteacher or Governors any questions they might have.



PARENT FORUM MEETING

MINUTES

The questions/topics raised by parents were:

Cover teachers

Q A parent of a pupil in Year 7 was concerned about the number of cover teachers her child had mentioned to her that had been covering her lessons. In a two week period the parent asked her child to write down how many cover teachers had taught her for lessons in total the pupil had been taught by 14 cover teachers?

TS explained that cover teachers are used to cover staff sickness including long term sickness and unfortunately there had been quite a few incidents of staff sickness. TS explained we have three Cover Supervisors at the School. Once a member of staff is signed off agency staff can be used to cover sickness day by day.

Q Is the staff sickness in one subject or quite a few subjects?

Maths has been badly hit with staff sickness. There are two members of teaching staff in Maths on long term sick. Two other members of staff went off sick in January due to serious operations. The Humanities department have two members of staff on long term sickness. As soon as the School are aware of sickness they secure agency teachers. TS explained that it is frustrating for the School and costly to cover sickness but it is also beyond their control and the school do the best they can. The Year 11 students are always prioritised when it comes to covering staff sickness.

Catching up on work if a student is absent from school

Q If a pupil is not in lessons because they are off sick is there a resource online that they can use to find what they have missed?

TS mentioned about Doodle (English), My Maths, and GCSE Science. Also, curriculum guides are available on the school website.

Q A parent of a Year 7 student explained that her child had been covering alot of global disasters/illness topics recently including ebola, Charlie Hebdo, tsunamis, cancers, and 911. The pupil found that this was quite a lot of information to take on board and the student was frightened by what she was told. The parent mentioned other students found the information frightening?

TS said that he would feed this information back.



PARENT FORUM MEETING

MINUTES

School rules

Q A parent mentioned that she liked the 'be nice' theme of the school idea. But she wondered if a 'be kind' theme called also be added?

TS said he would carry this idea forward, TS mentioned that the school are working on changing the school rules to values.

Activity week

Q A parent mentioned that she has a child in Year 7 and due to financial constraints she would be unable to send her child on any of the activities that cost money. The parent felt that couldn't the school run any trips in the school holidays/weekends rather than term time as she felt that is was unfair for those families that can't afford trips?

TS explained that activities week is used so that all trips are in one week and not in term time all through the year. This helps to keep the distribution to the curriculum throughout the year to a minimum. TS explained that all trips could not be run in the holidays due to staff availability to run them and the higher cost of trips in the school holidays. TS thought that maybe the Friends of Priory might be able to help with fundraising to help towards the cost of trips for some low income parents. TS spoke about the Lewes Town Fund where people can apply for a grant towards the cost of various things including trips.

Correspondence

Q A parent of a Year 7 student mentioned they had received a letter for the Brussels trip via email on Friday and parents only had till Tuesday to respond to the email. Parents were also asked to suggest a friend. The parent thought this email was sent with short notice to decide on whether to send their child on the trip. Also, the information on activity week had not been sent out before the Brussels letter?

TS agreed this was short notice for parents to decide and would feed this back.

Ofsted/monitoring of the school

Q A parent asked if the School have any other methods of internal monitoring of the school or independent monitoring other than an Ofsted inspection?

TS explained the Local Authority monitor the school each year and use their own team to grade the school. The school has a self-evaluation document which is used to self-evaluate the school and is updated all year. TS has a team doing a review of the school in March. Headteachers from other schools also come into the school and TS gives them a tour and asks



PARENT FORUM MEETING

MINUTES

them to give feedback on the school. The school use projection data to plan ahead for the next year. TS knows where the issues are and pulls in resources for any weaknesses. This is also shared with the Governors so Governors are aware of how the school is doing. RAISEonline and the Fischer Family Trust results help the school to bench mark themselves against other similar schools. An Ofsted inspection should be carried out in May as this will be 5 years since the last inspection. The new Ofsted framework is challenging for schools.

A parent wanted to comment and pass onto the school how helpful the house assistants are and how her child within a week of being at Priory was a much happier child.

Receiving letters via tutor

Q A pupil mentioned that they are given letters for trips etc to late in tutor time and they don't have enough time to complete any forms for trips?

TS will feed back to the tutor.

PQ thanked parents for coming and for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 20:25

Next meeting: to be confirmed