



Parent Forum Notes
Tuesday 14th June at 6pm
Breezehill Centre, Sir Christopher Hatton Academy

Present: Rob Hardcastle, Felicity Richardson, Bogdan Casauanu, Simon Cross, Bhav Dhanji, Charlotte Henderson, David Johnson, Michaela Austin, Kaye Aitken, Ian Pearson, Kate Cleaver, Lily Hawkins.

Absent: Claire O'Brien, Claire Iweka, Ronak Trivedi, Cristina Cavcalius, Philip Gobvu.

Agenda

- Introduction of all and the new Chair
- Overview of the forum
- General discussion about a work plan for next 12 months. Discussions including;
 - impact of cost of living and policy's that this might impact on e.g. school meals costs, uniform etc.
 - communication with parents generally.
 - funding to help children and parents post-COVID.
- Menu selection across Trust
- Close

Meeting notes

Recap of role of Parent Forum. All attendees were asked to provide ideas on what benefits the Parent Forum could have based on agenda items.

- Trust wide issue of Supply Teachers.
What is the impact on learning and where can other solutions be found?
- Curriculum consistency – mixed across academies.
- Communication can be excessive and harsh in its tone sometimes.
There is a big drop in information from Primary to Secondary settings.
- Use of social media – not enough use of community platforms ie Facebook. Can parents be more involved? Can academies have accounts across more platforms?
- Teaching assistants are being made redundant – will there be any replacements?
- Variety of sports opportunities – can there be more?
- Notice periods of school trips is far too short, availability soon goes as there is not always enough places for all students.

- Post COVID support and the cost of living for those with several children dealing with the rise in ingredients for cooking lesson, trips, uniform etc.

Potential action on the topic of menus was discussed and agreed on a small focus group of parents from each academy to be approached to answer 5 questions. To use collate information via Survey Monkey, email and verbal conversations.

Menus

There is a division between primary and secondary around quality, cost and portions. Primary is a limited range but great value for money, secondary is a wide range but quality is lacking and availability. Unaware that the menus are on the website and is managed in-house.

There is a risk of secondary children missing food because the queue, at times has been too big. It was highlighted that pre-ordering would be preferred for SCHA and that the menus can be found on both the SCHA/Trust websites and School Grid.

A survey was suggested to gain the views of parents in a cross section of the academies with a few short questions sent via Survey Monkey, email and verbally. Students views will be included at a later point through a Trust wide survey later this year.

Uniform

It was felt that the Uniform Policy for academies may exclude budget shopping on high street. Women's ranges may be needed as older children cannot fit school clothes that are compliant with the Uniform Policy.

Footwear doesn't always reflect the season ie no boots despite rain. In the heat, Sixth Form are required to wear shirt/tie whereas a collared t-shirt may be cooler.

The five points in the 2022 Guidance were described as a solution:

- 1) Logo/branded items to be kept to a minimum.
- 2) Second Hand clothes need to be available.
- 3) Uniform providers must be good value for money.
- 4) More than one provider must be available.
- 5) New policies to be written in conjunction with parents

Issues were raised regarding the suitability of SCHA PE kit in the rain and the poor quality and fit of shorts. A member of the forum explained that the cost of SCHA uniform to purchase is lower than the cost of other local secondaries.

Update: since this meeting, we are aware that the PE kit now includes dri-fit T-Shirt option to resolve this issue.

The individual PPG budget to assist with paying for uniforms and other elements such as trips was discussed – not all PF members were aware that support was available.

Second Hand uniform – where does this go at SCHA? Welfare needs to be a standalone point as there is less stigma but more need currently. It was noted that EVPA have lockers with school uniform that is available to all children for use. The logo on Oakway T-Shirts can peel easily – does the PE kit need to be logo'd whilst on school site? PE kit bags are not branded or are compulsory across all academies.

Update: there has been recent communication regarding a second hand sale at SCHA taking place on the 5th July after school. This was booked in the days before the Parent Forum meeting though is still useful to highlight that not parents will have received this previously.

PF members raised the lack of communication from SCHA eg. A regular newsletter. This was considered useful and students could be involved in its production via LifeSkills or released via Edulink. ParentMail provides data on who has opened their emails to school administrators for info. There is a filtering system on Edulink though limited awareness that messages go to junk mail.

Next meetings for the year ahead all at 6pm:

Tuesday 27th Sept 22

Tuesday 31st Jan 23

Tuesday 25th April 23

Tuesday 27th June 23 - Annual General Meeting.

