



Parent Forum Agenda
Tuesday 30th January at 6pm
Auditorium – Sir Christopher Hatton Academy

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Notes from 3rd October and any relevant updates
3. SEND group established
4. Annual Parent Survey plan for 2024
5. Academy communication update
6. Parent Forum views and update
7. Board of Director Request for PF views
8. AOB
9. Date of next meeting

Attending: Rob Hardcastle, Graham Lawman, Jo Austen, Nick Salisbury, Ian Pearson, Ashokkumar Vadher, Daniela Opritoiu, Salome K Madega, Ashish Patel, Sophia Mutendi, Gifty Asare, Gideon Aduasare, Lily Hawkins

Attendees welcomed and introduced. The purpose of the Parent Forum was explained including what has been achieved since the start in April 2021.

School Trips – recapped around issues of availability of places at Hatton. Limited number and academies financial support provided re PP and multiple children attending. This covers both primary and secondary children.

Mobile phone ban in the school day at Hatton – well received and school phone numbers provided.

Ofsted inspections – all four schools are reviewed as 'GOOD'.

SEND group established

LH updated on how it has begun including director and principal attendance, parents invited who may benefit from support and information using the wealth of knowledge across the staff. It is informal with details that have been found to be

useful shared. Plan to place on a central place on the website - once arranged, this will be shared. Next group to take place in March in the evening to ensure all who wish to attend can access at least one group.

Chair role explained and reiterated that we are looking for a parent to chair.

The issue with uniform was updated, particularly with Hatton re choices and being weather appropriate whilst still maintaining identity and standards. Changes proposed in November following consultation period with parents – knee length pencil skirt is now in the Uniform Policy following direct feedback. Discussion with SWI (uniform supplier) re clip on/full ties and offering both. Luke Shackleton (Vice Principal at Hatton) is still pursuing despite a slower response than hoped. Policy has now changed to incorporate changes to skirt after parents invited to share thoughts. Parent Forum member feedback that they were not aware of consultation. NS confirmed this was sent via email. Parent felt not had the opportunity and would have provided some feedback.

Annual Survey

Survey to be repeated this spring. Parents reviewed previous questions and asked if they would amend anything or would like to be asked a specific question. LH to send out with notes for review in parents own time.

Potential amendments given include:

“Which way do you prefer to be communicated with?”
email/edulink/text/letter/newsletter/social media etc”

Free text box needed on questions to add details.

Regarding the question where it states ‘...a complex issue” Can we clarify what is a complex issue by providing examples.

Regarding academies effort to engage – are parents willing to engage more? The academy has offered to link parents to support FOHA when this has been raised but would more people be willing to contribute skills/knowledge from community in the school? Can we seek information from parents to broaden education experience beyond what is offered on the curriculum?

NS said willing to work with local community and offer additional enrichment, would love to engage and provide additional after school clubs.

As a parent, if you're willing to support the academy using your own skills (ie gaps or other) would you consider volunteering to build up a bank? To look into the capacity and how this could be done and feedback to next meeting.

Communication

A Parent Forum member stated they disagree with 9 minutes online parents evening with tutor then a follow up re specific subjects. It was felt it was a summary only, then a lack of response to the email sent after requesting a follow up. Queried with NS re why online. He has confirmed that a survey was sent regarding this and 90% of those

who responded preferred staying online. Those who need a follow up meeting can request by email. Volume is a lot higher due to secondary numbers which needs careful planning plus consideration around the legal requirement of directed time (where schools need to provide time for staff to prepare and attend meetings).

NS happy to share survey results to Parent Forum.

One parent feedback that a follow up meeting was sought but not responded to. NS advised to escalate however, this was tried and no response from Head of Year. To feed this back to the school.

NS updated that always looking to improve communication and aswell as long standing methods, introducing a newsletter tomorrow. Includes key messages (ie safeguarding) website now includes Learning Journeys which includes termly, subject specific details. Feel that a lot of effort has been made but open to new solutions.

PF member raised there is an inconsistency between children and parents, messages received on both outlook and Edulink – NS confirmed. Preferred all messages on one channel. It is a big transition for a Year 7 child to manage outlook and edulink as well as everything else secondary school brings - adds to the risk of being told off and the anxiety felt.

Another parent feels too much information (in a positive way) Edulink may be an issue for children not tech savvy so all children are different. Gets the same information on email.

NS said aim to keep as many channels open for those who are comfortable with certain channels only including social media.

Primary is via ParentMail – JA stated that VPA has promoted anti bullying. Wanted information to come from students not staff and will send details out themselves. Felt parents would listen more and were proud of this project.

RH highlighted how many new things to cope with, 8 teachers/large buildings/new classes/edulink systems.

NS added Outlook is a single message and Edulink is for homework and past reports.

Could Outlook copy in a parent of a Year 7 student to aid them with individual emails. NS raised this may be used during a lesson so not practical. Parent raised that when a student isn't expecting a message, this is added pressure and time restrictions. NS to take back and look at, review examples where there are better alternatives used.

Primary is a good system if the teacher uses the resources – when there are two siblings, it is noticeable as one teacher uses more than other so doesn't reflect the academy as provides the tools but differs between two children. ClassDojo and ParentMail – set up is fine.

RH raised to ask for more information where necessary and escalate if not responded to.

Oakway communication is very good. There is not always as much information as they enter Year 7. Academies can only put the information out if parents can access.

One parent liked the parents evening set up for SCHA. Survey sent out after year 8 parents evening only 20 responses of 150 parents so can only take on board when feedback is provided. Highlighted that contact the school if there is any query.

Upload work to Padlet can log into work and see work that's completed.

AGM to be held next – details to be sent soon.