



George Stephenson High School

George Stephenson High School Parents' Forum Meeting

Monday 1 October 2018

Minutes

Present: Jennifer Adams-Hall (Parent), Laura Angus (Parent), Christine Anson (Parent), Karen Blake (Parent), Andrea Brownless (Parent), Caroline Cranston (Parent), Ian Cook (Governor) Rachel Haythorn (Parent) Sharon Hedley (Parent), Jeanette McGhie (Parent), Candida Mellor (Parent), Sally Rix (Assistant Headteacher), Lynn Simpson (Assistant Headteacher), Leanne Stewart (Parent), Helen Tansey (Parent) Carol Whiting (Parent), Ian Wilkinson (Headteacher), Helen Williams (Parent)

Apologies: Rachel Westwood (Parent)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lynn Simpson, Assistant Headteacher, introduced herself as new lead for Parental Engagement following the retirement of Tracey Anderson.

Sally Rix, Assistant Headteacher, introduced herself as lead for the new High Expectations System.

2. Update on Key Issues and Events

Lynn Simpson shared photographs and key information from Year 11 Prom (June 2018), GCSE and A Level Results Day (August 2018), Celebration of Achievement Evenings, new staff and the "new" uniform. Parents thanked for their support with making the new uniform such a success.

Lynn Simpson also shared destination data for the outgoing Year 13 cohort: 71% of students went to university and 62% of these students were offered a place at their first choice of university; the remaining 38% secured their second choice; 26% of students were offered places by a Russell Group University; 1 student secured a place at Cambridge University. In addition, 13% of students began an apprenticeship, 5% went on to further education; 7% started full time employment, 2% joined the armed forces.

Sally Rix shared the new High Expectations system: the system aims to maximise effective use of classtime and keep the emphasis on learning, as well as improve consistency across the school. If students fail to meet expectations, they are given a code in their planner for lack of equipment (E), lack of home learning (HL), lateness to school or class (L) or poor behaviour or lack of effort (B). If a student receives 5 codes in his/her planner in a week, this results in a 45 minute detention; if he/she gets 6 or more codes, this results in a 90 minute detention. All detentions are held on a Wednesday night.

Sally Rix also fed back on how the system was going: all very positive thus far with excellent attendance at detentions and very positive feedback from staff in terms of dealing with low level disruption, increased learning time in lessons, a better overview for tutors and improved communication with parents. Moving forward, we are continuing to focus on making sure that the codes are being applied consistently and dealing with students who are regularly receiving detentions.

Laura Angus raised a concern about students who consistently do the right thing but miss out on rewards trips and visits. Ian Wilkinson explained that last year, students who achieved a "Good" for Effort in every report throughout the year were rewarded; unfortunately, we had to "draw a line" somewhere in terms of who was rewarded by the Achievement Support Co-ordinators and this meant that students who were awarded one "satisfactory" code for effort sadly missed out on the trip.

Action: Sally Rix raised this at a Leadership Team meeting and we are currently exploring what we can do to reward students who get no codes all year. We are also aiming to reward more students at our Celebration of Achievement Evenings by changing the format of the evenings. We also changed the way we organise end of year reward trips last year to be as inclusive as possible and to avoid students who deserve to be praised and rewarded from missing out.

3. School Improvement Update

Ian Wilkinson shared our school aims and values:

At George Stephenson High School we value the individual differences of our students, encourage them to succeed in everything they do and help them to become caring, confident and responsible young people.

We provide the best possible educational experience for all:

- 1. Excellent Teaching*
- 2. Positive and Supportive Relationships*
- 3. A Personalised and Enriched Curriculum*
- 4. High Aspirations*
- 5. Strong Partnerships*

He also shared where we hope to be by the school's 50th anniversary in 2020:

By then we will:

- be a fully inclusive school where all students make excellent progress and achieve positive outcomes;*
- be a school where all students secure their most appropriate progression route and become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens;*
- be the school of choice and be full in every year group;*
- be a school with a large, vibrant collaborative Sixth Form;*
- be a school where students are emotionally resilient and where emotional health and well-being are valued and promoted.*

He then went on to share what the school needs to do to improve further.

1. *Increase the effectiveness of **leadership and governance** by ensuring:*
 - *senior and subject leaders have higher expectations and **check pupils' work** thoroughly to make sure pupils make good progress overall;*
 - *the proportion of **disadvantaged pupils regularly absent** from school is reduced;*
 - ***plans for improvement** are crystal clear about the main school priorities*
 - *the use of the additional government funding for **disadvantaged pupils** results in these pupils making at least good progress across a wide range of subjects.*
2. *Improve **outcomes** at Key Stage 4 in order to achieve at least an average Progress 8 score in 2018 and an above average Progress 8 score in 2019.*
3. *Improve **outcomes** at Key Stage 4 for disadvantaged students so their progress improves significantly in order to achieve a broadly average Progress 8 score in 2018 and a positive Progress 8 score in 2019.*

He also highlighted significant successes that we are very proud of as a school:

- *99% pass rate at A-Level over the last three years;*
- *The vast majority of our students over the last three years have secured a place at their first choice university with the rest securing their second choice or getting into university through clearing;*
- *several students have secured apprenticeships in highly sought after companies such as NHS, North Tyneside Council, Ernst & Young, Owen Pugh, Audi and many more;*
- *GCSE results this year – 70% Grade 4 and above in all subjects; 67% Grade 4 and above in Maths, 83% Grade 4 and above English with 64% passing both English and Maths;*
- *Attainment 8 Score of 4.82 – up on last year, above national and above North Tyneside average;*
- *Significantly improved Progress score;*
- *99% of Year 11 leavers in education, employment and training over the last three years.*

4. Parental Issues

Christine Anson asked if there is any chance of GCSE results being given out earlier than 10am.

Action: Lynn Simpson discussed this with Steve Tyson, Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for data and examinations. Unfortunately, it would be very difficult to do this because of the number of students involved and the amount of administration time needed to put the results packs together. We also want to make sure that results are checked thoroughly to make sure that there are no gaps or missing results for students, which there often are; we prioritise this over getting the results out quickly. We are, however, planning to have more distribution desks next year to minimise queues and waiting times.

A Level results are given out much earlier to allow students to have the best chance at securing a university place throughout the clearing system if needed; this is possible because of the smaller numbers involved.

Christine Anson asked if we could have sixth form enrolment the day after GCSE results, in line with Longbenton High School, rather than on the same day. Ian Wilkinson explained that it is beneficial to have Curriculum Leaders and subject teachers in school when students are making their choices and this would not be possible if we waited until the following day.

Action: Lynn Simpson raised the lack of consistency with LBH with Louise Dunn, Assistant Head with responsibility for the sixth form to see if the schools can align the process. To be discussed further with the head of Sixth Form at LBH.

Andrea Brownless mentioned other inconsistencies between the two schools in the sixth form e.g. different badges and badges being given out on different days. Ian Wilkinson explained that Louise Dunn is already aware of this and it is being discussed with the Head of Sixth Form at LBH.

Karen Blake shared that the best transport card for sixth formers is the Blue Pop Card (90p per day). Her son Sam will share this with Louise Dunn to inform other sixth formers.

Christine Anson asked about progress with the building work on G Block. Ian Wilkinson explained that the work has been much slower than we had expected but we hope to have it all finished by October half term.

5. Discussion Item: What can we do to further engage parents to support students' learning?

(Please see attached document for parental feedback and ideas.)

Action:

- **new staff list with staff codes on website to help parents know the names of son/daughter's teachers;**
- **all teachers and Teaching Assistants asked to put more positive comments in planners on a regular basis;**
- **Parents' Forum minutes to be updated on the website;**
- **professional photographer booked for November 2018 to take new photographs of students and staff to update the website;**
- **photographs of Guidance Managers, Family Support Workers and Leadership Team planned for entrance way to school;**
- **invitation to Parents' Forum with date of next meeting on the website;**
- **plans to allow new Year 7 parents to meet form teachers before the start of September under discussion and to increase parental involvement in the transition from primary School even further underway;**
- **Parent Mail up and running for Year 7.**

6. Date of next meeting: Monday 21 January

Discussion Item for next meeting: How can we further support and encourage parents to continue to improve student attendance?

Lynn Simpson asked parents to think about the discussion item in preparation for the next meeting and to email her at lsimpson@gshs.org.uk if anyone needs to contact her about anything in the meantime.

Parents thanked for their attendance and contribution.

Meeting closed 7.40pm.