

Westlands School Parents' Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 November 2017

Mr Cregeen (Assistant Headteacher) welcomed parents to the meeting.

Mr Hallam introduced himself and explained his role in the school, he is the Deputy Headteacher responsible for Pupil Engagement and Principal of the Tudor Community.

The topics for discussion tonight are: -

- Pupil engagement
- Moving forward – open forum
- Parent questionnaire
- Any other business

Mr Hallam talked through the attached presentation on Pupil Engagement.

Moving forward – Mr Hallam advised parents that there had been no permanent exclusions since 2013, pupils are now moved to a new school to make a new start or educated at the Swale Inclusion Centre to ensure that they do not miss out on an education. Parents as well as pupils need to engage with schools to make sure that their children's education is not disrupted.

Social Media was discussed; it was felt that it had less impact now as children knew how to use it and not so many problems were caused. The school had worked hard to educate pupils.

Mr Cregeen showed parents a short film made by pupils about Westlands Values, he hoped that it would be broadcast to a wider audience in the future. The film showed how issues that pupils had at school were tackled by Peer Mentors, a Boom room (where games were played and all pupils were made welcome), Calm Zones around the school which enabled pupils to chill out, a Safe Text service which was available to all and Staff are also available to all pupils during unstructured time to help with any problems they had.

Mr Cregeen said that Westlands School had been on a massive journey, but that there was still a long way to go. Pupils have some of the best ideas to take the school to the next level. Discrimination has been stamped out, tolerance is a lot higher than 2 years ago, however there are still things to work on.

Parent Questionnaire – Mr Cregeen asked the parents to complete the attached form asking them various questions about the school, the results would be discussed at the next meeting.

Any other business – Ofsted changing the goalposts was discussed, Mr Cregeen said that staff at Westlands were extremely hard working, often going the extra mile.

Mr Cregeen told parents that the biggest problem staff had was the amount of marking that they had to do, this was why peer marking and self-assessment were now used more often. The pupil's benefitted from knowing the marking criteria and following on from that what they had to do to improve.

Mr Hallam asked if there was anything else that parents would like more information about. A parent asked about the structure of the school and who they should speak to about issues.

Mr Hallam explained that it depended what the issue was, usually the best route was through the community Pastoral Support Managers either by phone or email. If it was a learning issue a Learning Leader would be able to help. More serious issues are passed on to the community Principal or Vice Principal. Staff often respond to messages via their iPads.

Parents were very appreciative of the positive phone calls home, these calls enabled them to praise their children and discuss school.

Mr Hallam asked Parents which subjects they would like to discuss at the next meeting, homework was a popular suggestion.

Mr Cregeen thanked parents for coming.

The date of the next meeting is 31 January 2018 at 7.00pm

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