

Notes from Launch of Parent Forum – 14/10/09

(1) Welcome – Aims of the Group and Feedback in Relation to SSAT Parental Engagement Quality Standard.

DAC stressed that he wants this forum to be a meaningful conduit between parent views and a tangible link to outcomes for school improvement and how the way the school moves forward.

TOA have been awarded the Gold Standard for parental engagement

(2) Disability Awareness Group – Position for Parent Representative (Opportunity to express interest in joining this Committee)

LIA outlined the DDA and the Disability Equality Scheme Working Group. Opening for any parents to be involved in the group – parents requested to express an interest direct to LIA or through the forum.

(3) Attitudes to Learning Policy – Consultation and Feedback (Opportunity to give feedback in relation to some of our new policies)

Discussion about the Attitudes to Learning Policy. Concern from some parents that well motivated students were not being awarded with credits by some staff. Concern from some parents that some members of staff were using detentions inappropriately. Concern that students with highest potential are not benefitting from the current system.

Action:

- DAC to discuss with Heads of Curriculum
- DAC to run a report showing how many achievements/detentions each teacher is giving.
- DAC (if required) will lower the number of credits required for major rewards if appropriate
- Audit of Attitudes to Learning Policy by Consultant on Nov 27 will give better picture of effectiveness of the new policy. DAC will feedback the findings of this audit to the Forum.
- DAC to arrange separate meetings with concerned parents

(4) Karim Khan – Parent Voice Film (Opportunity to give general feedback in relation to the progress of the Academy, on film, as part of Karim Khan's next documentary)

Karim interviewed interested parents and carers about their views relating to the progress of the Academy to date. These contributions will form part of the

feedback on his current film canvassing current opinion in relation to the progress of the Academy.

(5) Any other Business

- Some discussion and concern security of the electronic parent forum. DAC told the audience that there would be thorough security checks once a parent had requested membership and that it would be virtually impossible for any student (or non parent/carer for that matter) to access the electronic forum.
- Request to allow students to take home exercise and text books. **Action** – DAC to speak to Heads of Curriculum
- VLE to be up and running before the end of the academic year
- Request for copies of letters/information to be sent to both parents – not happening at present. **Action** – DAC to follow up