

KETTERING SCIENCE ACADEMY

PARENTS' FORUM

Thursday 21st June 2018

6 – 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Chair - Mr Tony Segalini (Associate Principal) [TSE]
Mr Steve Barton (Chair of Governors) [SBA]
Josie Tomkins (Note Taker) [JTS]

	Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Mr Segalini welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Barton expressed how important it is for the governing body to link up with parents, and that the Parents' Forum is a good platform for achieving this. He advised that notes are taken and fed back to governors, and as a result things have changed in response to this meeting, such as information flow, response times etc. Mr Barton how valuable it is to receive parents' feedback so that the Governors and school can do their best for parents and students.</p>	
2	<p>Absence Requests</p> <p>Mr Segalini –this item was added to the agenda to provide clarification on the process of requesting absence in school time. When parents take students out of school in term time, many of them ask the Academy about fines. Although I decide upon whether the absence request is authorised or unauthorised, whilst adhering to the local authority rules, it is the local authority that issues the penalty notices.</p> <p>The Academy has to notify the authorities as to why students are not in school. We have to justify any absence authorisations, the authority takes the decision to issue the penalty notices/fines based upon number and reasons for absence. When considering absence requests it is very difficult, as an Academy we have to stick to basic principles that students should be in school in school term. Exceptional circumstances can include educational, or health problems within the family, however the ultimate guidelines from the government are that students should be in school.</p> <p>Mr Segalini advised that he is not in a position to authorise holidays. The Academy's attendance rate is well above the national average, well done to the parents for getting students to school and teachers too, as students obviously want to come. Ofsted can put a school in category for having low attendance. Each individual case is dealt with on an individual basis.</p> <p><u>Parent – how often do you have to provide figures?</u></p> <p>Mr Segalini - At Trust level we record this every half-term, we record and work out patterns from that data. Data for the year has a cut off of 31st May, due to a census which is conducted at that time of year. Our attendance team look at data on a weekly basis.</p> <p><u>Parent – am I right in thinking that if the absence is linked to studies is it authorised?</u></p>	



	<p>Mr Segalini - If the absence is clearly linked to studies and can be evidenced we can authorise and record the absence on that basis.</p> <p><u>Parent – from what you are saying, if you were to agree all the holiday requests you wouldn't have a job as you would be in trouble for doing so.</u></p> <p>Mr Segalini - yes I would be under scrutiny from Ofsted too, I feel that the fine system wasn't very well communicated. The Local Authority manage the system and collection of fines, the money goes to them not us.</p>	
3	<p>Behaviour Policy / Principal's Panel</p> <p>Mr Segalini – I wanted to explain how this works, as some students get to the point where their behavior is difficult to manage. A part of the process is a Principal's Panel – that panel will determine what the next step should be; extra level of support or permanent exclusion.</p> <p>Mr Barton – one of worst parts of my job as Chair of Governors is Permanent exclusions. I wanted to ensure that everyone understands that when a pupil gets to the Principal's Panel that really is a last chance, and it is made very clear that if behavior doesn't change this can result in permanent exclusion. If we have to take the unfortunate decision to permanently exclude, some people at that stage have thought they could plea for a second chance, but the Principal's Panel is a very serious part of the discipline procedure; it's the last stop before more serious consequences so it is vital that students and parents take it seriously and amend their behavior.</p> <p><u>Parent – with regard to behaviour, in lessons this can sometimes be difficult to manage. How do you support the teachers?</u></p> <p>Mr Segalini - We have 5 Heads of Year and will be recruiting another Student Support Officer (SSO) so there will be 3 SSOs who are there purely to support with behaviour . Our teaching and learning team are providing support to improve classroom management skills. I am proud to say that for September we are fully staffed. We have new staff joining us, many of whom are newly qualified staff. Our teaching & learning team will support them with classroom management and how you enthuse the students in the classroom.</p> <p><u>Parent – sometimes lessons are so loud and noisy they can't concentrate; my daughter has made me aware of this and the same names are mentioned.</u></p> <p><u>Parent – alternatively, I know that my child can be disruptive, I want to know the process, so that I can support the teachers.</u></p> <p>Mr Segalini – we do ask disruptive students to wait outside to calm down, so that the teacher can talk to them and bring them back into the class. For 70% that works, for 30% it doesn't so they are then removed to a faculty department removal room. This works well. We monitor who is being removed and from what lessons so that we can identify areas that assistance is needed. Behaviour management isn't easy, that's why we have a strong team of Heads of Year, Student Support Officers and Ms Watson to provide support where necessary. We have permanently excluded 3 students this year, as they were preventing other students from learning.</p> <p><u>Parent – my daughter in some classes has a problem with the teacher. What is the channel for me as a parent to address this?</u></p> <p>Mr Segalini – your first point of contact is the Head of Year or Head of Department, which are all listed on the website. If you find your child is having a problem in a specific lesson, Head of Department (HOD) for that subject is the best person to</p>	



	<p>contact. If they are having a problem across the board, your best contact is their Head of Year (HOY).</p> <p><u>Parent – I get to know the teachers who are teaching my child and I raise it directly with them.</u> Mr Segalini - we encourage our staff to contact you as parents. If you are not satisfied, you can go to their HOD and they in turn have the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to support them.</p> <p>I focused on recruitment so that we have staff who are ours and therefore we are in a stronger position to support them and ensure they are teaching the KSA way. The staff can build a relationship with the students. <u>Parent agreed noting this provides continuity of care.</u> Mr Segalini – I have to hold staff accountable for their outcomes, which we have control over if they are our staff. There will always be concerns, the big difference is that we will do something about it. Please let us know so we can address the problem. I am pleased to say that we have a number of staff who are returning to work for us from elsewhere which is positive feedback as an employer.</p>	
4	<p>Marketing/Community The discussion moved on following the previous response as follows:</p> <p><u>Parent – how can you bottle that? Out in the community KSA is not perceived well. You’re saying so many positive things, how can you communicate that to the community?</u> Mr Segalini - it’s difficult but we have got to get that message out there.</p> <p><u>Parent – last Ofsted report doesn’t help. When is the next Ofsted?</u> Mr Segalini – May 2019. Mr Barton – it’s all about outcomes at the moment, achieving good outcomes will help a lot. We have put the team under a lot of pressure to ensure that they are improved.</p> <p><u>Parent – I think we all play a part in raising the profile of the Academy. I gave my children the choice and they wanted to come to KSA. As parents we have to stand our ground and voice how good it is at KSA.</u> <u>Parent – we have the chance to have input to the Ofsted visit – there weren’t many parents who took the time to do that, we as parents need to encourage that, can we do that via the Parents’ Forum?</u> Mr Segalini – Ofsted have guidelines and the forum to provide this feedback is via the link sent out to parents when the visit takes place.</p> <p><u>Parent – I feel they make it difficult to complete.</u> Mr Segalini – thank you for that feedback, in which case we need to communicate well on how to complete their survey.</p> <p><u>Parent – my child is having a very positive experience and I have no complaints, in fact quite the opposite, we are getting a lot out of the school, not just from the classroom.</u> <u>Parent – I always build a good relationship with the school, it always works and it helps the school improve.</u> <u>Parent – At the Open Evening could we have a Parents’ Forum so that prospective parents could ask us for our feedback? I would be happy to be part of that. There’s</u></p>	



so many positive things happening here, I want to help with ensuring others can see that. I would be happy to have a parents stand.

Mr Segalini – thank you, that would be a great idea, we are always looking at how we can improve the evening, you as parents are the best ambassadors we could have and are the best advocates to support what we are doing. Josie will be in contact to establish how many of you are able to support this stand and make arrangements for the evening. **ACTION JTS**

JTS

Parent – we could create a pool of information from people who actively chose this school. My child chose to come here, school is close to where we live, but if other things hadn't been right it would not have been right for us.

Parent – this is a very valid point, the KSA bus from Mawsley is free, many people don't realise that. Without the bus my children couldn't come here – students going to other schools from Mawsley have to pay.

Parent – I think parents need to be more invested about what they are getting from school, we need to help dispel any negative image they have.

Mr Segalini – I am very keen to work with you all on promoting the school, we will sit down and work out how we can make that work

Parent – this year we were oversubscribed, my girls like being here and would hate it if I moved them. I know of another parent who poses that to ensure their behaviour is good.

Mr Segalini – yes we are full for the new Year 7 and we had our first appeal in 4 years this year. We have increased our PAN as well by another 30 students.

Parent – could there be a website page as another forum where parents can respond to?

Mr Segalini – I like that idea but unfortunately it would be difficult to manage.

Mr Barton – we also have a governor responsible for marketing, because of our stronger position I feel more comfortable about shouting about what we are doing here.

Parent – do you visit Primary Schools?

Mr Segalini – yes, our Head of Year 7 and SENCo create those links, however by that stage parents have made their decision. We have invited Primary Heads to come and see the school for themselves so that if they like what they see they can promote it too.

Parent – I have made a note to speak to Head Teacher at Mawsley so that I can speak to them about ensuring they visit, I could do that to help promote KSA, I can talk from experience.

Mr Segalini – thank you.

Mr Barton – as Governors we realise that community links and our name within the community is something we need to work on and improve on next year.

Parent – as another type of advertising, have you considered a school choir to visit an old people's home.

Mr Segalini – we have made many hamper deliveries at Christmas to hospitals and old people's homes. There has been a lot of money raised for charity too, the community aspect of the school is something we do need to develop.



	<p><u>Parent – what are you doing to retain the teachers? I know that some teachers have left due to salaries. Can you retain them so that my child can have continuity?</u> Mr Segalini – we do our very best to ensure that we maintain continuity. We have many career opportunities and positions within the school so we aim to manage ambition. Our 2nd in English will become Head of Sixth Form in September; she’s ambitious and we’ve been able to meet her need to progress. We adhere to the National Pay Standards.</p> <p><u>Parent – I’m being told that BWA has more money from the central pot than KSA.</u> Mr Segalini – no that’s not the case at all, an auditor has to check these matters so we get our fair share. As we are expanding, more money comes into the school for use on resources as well as teachers. We are expanding the building next year so that we have a better sixth form capacity. Mr Barton – we probably over indexed on funding as we have been trying to build the school up. Teachers want to come here as it’s about the opportunities.</p> <p><u>Parent – it appears that they want to work for you too.</u> Mr Segalini – research shows that teachers in their early 30s are motivated by opportunities and challenge, rather than money. Coming to the end of this year we are in a very strong position to move forward, heading into our Ofsted year. We need to prove to Ofsted that this is where the school is and it is good. Attendance is good and we have strong Trust support with IT enhancements.</p>	
5	<p>Any Other Business <u>Anti-bullying ambassadors have signed a charter – would it be possible to put that on the website?</u> Mr Segalini – yes of course. The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are a very welcome addition to the school. These ambassadors help where students don’t want to talk to a member of staff they can speak to a peer. We also have a student council and we also have a student academic voice to hear what they are saying about what is going on in the classroom, that’s 3 separate ways to listen to what students are saying. Students are the best source of information. ACTION JTS to arrange display of charter on website.</p> <p><u>Parent – if you are on a limited income I’m not sure if parents are aware of the help they can get from the Kettering Old Grammar School Foundation – is there any way of promoting that? They have a database of charities that are able to help you which can assist with affording trips for those who would otherwise miss out of the educational visit.</u> Mr Segalini – we will see if this is something we can put on the website. ACTION TSE</p> <p>Mr Segalini closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for their strong support, adding how heartening it was to hear everyone’s positive comments.</p>	<p>JTS</p> <p>TSE</p>

