

Notes from Parent/School Partnership

8/6/17 – 4.30pm

Hyde Community College

Present: Mr Andy Vincent (Vice Chair of Governors), Mr Paul Thompson (SLT), Mrs Rachel Fawcett (parent and exams officer), Mrs Jen Nicholson (parent), Mrs Rena Lwin (parent), Mrs Anna Osemwegie (parent).

- 1) Introductions were made by all attending the meeting and PT thanked the group for attending and for their commitment to improving school/parental engagement. PT apologized for the delays in getting the first meeting arranged.
- 2) PT explained that the rationale behind the formation of the partnership was mainly to improve communication - both ways. It was pointed out that this was not a fundraising group and that we would be looking at key issues that affected all stakeholders in the school. It was agreed that we would meet on a termly basis (3 meetings over the year)
- 3) It was felt by the parents that paper communication was not particularly effective, mainly due to some students not passing letters on or losing them. A discussion around e-mail took place but again this is not 100% effective as not all parents have access to on-line communication. It was agreed that both forms of communication would be an improvement. PT advised that he would need to look at how to set up a group on the email system which would have 100's of e mail addresses on it, would this be practical?

The parents advised that MyEd is fantastic and that all parents should be encouraged to use this app. AV suggested that we have a sign up stall at parent's evenings.

Parents advised that they knew very little about after school clubs or sports activities/results. PT advised that they were put on the website as were lots of success stories (Hyde community matters). The group asked if a newsletter could be sent out at the start of every term giving a run down of 'dates for the diary' e.g. university trips etc. Generally felt that we do not communicate enough on success stories.

- 4) The booklet for parents regarding the new levels and flightpaths was praised and improved parental understanding. PT was questioned on the confidence levels staff had when levelling students. PT advised that this was the first year and that the flightpaths would be reviewed once the country had a firm set of results. Exam grade boundaries were still unclear but PT advised that staff were setting formal and robust assessments.

Parents questioned the consistency of the progress reports. There was confusion as to why students were awarded outstanding for progress but then required improvement for resilience and homework. One parent's child had required improvement for progress but outstanding for all the other criteria, PT to refer to SLT.

Parents felt that the final column (colour coded) on the data sheets was demoralizing for students when it was red in many subjects even though the student was working hard. Parents understood that the target was aspirational but that the effect of red all over the report was knocking the confidence of their children, PT to advise SLT.

- 5) PT advised the group of forthcoming events e.g. prize evening
- 6) Next meeting to be arranged for early November

Meeting finished at 5.45pm