

# Parent Council Meeting June 2019

Date/Time: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 4:30pm  
 Location: LA04 Bluecoat Aspley Academy  
 Chair: MK  
 Present: JH, MH, DP.



**Bluecoat Aspley**  
 believe in yourself, in others, in God

Item		Actions
<b>Welcome</b>	MK thanked everyone for attendance and welcomed new parents.	
<b>Minutes and Actions from last meeting - (MK)</b>	<p>MK discussed the issues parents were having at the last meeting with G4S. MK stated that he spoke to G4S and the issues should be sorted. MK discussed G4S and said that it is used to track attendance, behaviour and attainment. MK explained that G4S app sends out daily notifications for things such as homework and then weekly notifications for attendance and punctuality.</p> <p>One parent stated that they were still receiving notifications at the weekend. MK said that he would look into this issue and advised that each parent checks their settings.</p> <p>MK then said that sixth form students had been spoken to regarding the new mobile phone policy to ensure they did not use their phones inside the main school building.</p> <p>MK stated that the bus issue had also been resolved.</p>	MK to look into notification issue with G4S.
<b>New Head Boy and Girl - (MK &amp; JH)</b>	<p>MK introduced the new head boy and girl: Blessings and Chelsea. Both students began to explain why they wanted to become head boy and girl; Blessings said that he had been part of leadership teams in the past and through these teams he has gained new skills. Chelsea said that she wanted to be head girl to challenge herself after being in various leadership teams.</p> <p>Blessings and Chelsea discussed their vision and highlighted things they want to explore: suggestions boxes in safe zones, making well-being a priority, fundraising events, life skill lessons such as money management and expanding the revision website.</p> <p>MK emphasised that he is keen to get the head boy and girl on board as a voice for the students. MK asked parents if they had any suggestions to let the school know. One parent asked how they can help new students in year 7. Chelsea replied by helping visit them through FAM (Friends and Mentors) which will help to boost their confidence. MK explained that the two transition days at the start of the year are used to help the new starters settle in. MK highlighted that although it is daunting, it gives the students an opportunity to meet others and see the school.</p> <p>JH explained that as an Academy we value students experience and opinion and this is why we have the head boy and girl as two year 10's who have worked their way up. JH highlighted that there used to be just student council and sports leadership but now the Academy is expanding.</p>	



<p><b>Mobile Phone Policy update - (MK &amp; JH)</b></p>	<p>MK began by discussing the policy for any parents that were not at the last meeting. He explained that a full ban had been put in place since the feedback from the last meeting. MK showed parents a bar chart which highlighted that in week 1, 34 electronic devices had been confiscated and now in week 7 only 6 had been confiscated which is a massive improvement.</p> <p>MK stated that he understands that it can be difficult for parents to pick up the devices the following day due to work commitments and safeguarding concerns. MK said that depending on the circumstance students can speak to Year Leaders and their parents about collecting the device early.</p> <p>One parent said that they have an issue with not being able to collect the phone until the next day as her child catches the bus after school. She said that her child rings her after school and if her child doesn't ring her as her phone has been confiscated she will panic. MK answered that this is the policy as it is a deterrent to not use their phone in school but depending on the circumstance phones can be given back.</p> <p>MK asked the parents if they had any suggestions. One parent responded that teachers could ring parents and then instead the parents keep it at home. JH highlighted that not all parents are as supportive and will do this. JH stated that the office texts home at the end of the day to let parents know already however, instead the office could text the parents as soon as the device is taken. JH said that this can be reviewed the first meeting back in September.</p>	
<p><b>Saturday workshop update - (MK &amp; JH)</b></p>	<p>MK discussed Saturday workshops and how they would be used for students who for example, have taken holiday during term time as a time to catch up on missed work every few weeks.</p> <p>One parent asked if this would replace the fines for taking holidays in term time and MK replied no as this is done through the local authority.</p> <p>MK explained that Saturday workshops would take place every few weeks from 08:30-10:30am and be for students who: take holidays during term time, hit the threshold of negative points in a term (5,10,15) and for punctuality (5 or more lates in a half term). One parent said that this penalises parents as it is on a Saturday. JH responded that she has seen children respond well to this idea as they do not want to come in on a Saturday and most parents are incredibly supportive of this. JH stated that the Academy moved away from permanent exclusions and are using as many strategies to help prevent negative behaviour such as student services and Saturday workshops.</p> <p>One parent said that they really supported the idea and was happy for their child to attend if needed. Another parent suggested giving the parents a heads up, for example texting them once they are close to getting put in Saturday workshop. MK said that he would speak to Year Leaders about texting parents once a student is at 3 negatives. Another parent asked what would happen if their child cannot make that date. JH answered that it would be moved to the next upcoming date.</p> <p>JH thanked the parents for their opinion and said that it is good to get a range of views from the parents.</p>	<p>MK to speak to Year Leaders about texts</p>

<p><b>Revision website - (MK)</b></p>	<p>One parent said that they were sent a link to the revision website on Parent Mail but their child was having an issue with it not working on her phone and the student was having an issue getting onto her email. MK stated that he would look into this issue.</p> <p>MK stated that the revision website will be launching with lower years. One parent stated that it might not be best to launch the website with Year 7 and 8s as this could stress them out but launching it with Year 9s would be a good idea.</p> <p>LINK TO GET ONTO THE REVISION WEBSITE:  <a href="http://www.bluecoataspley.co.uk/learning/revision-website/">http://www.bluecoataspley.co.uk/learning/revision-website/</a></p>	<p>MK to look into issue</p>
<p><b>Well-being award - (MK &amp; JH)</b></p>	<p>MK stated that he and JH have been leading assemblies on mental health due to the stigma that surrounds it. MK explained that as an Academy we are working towards a well-being award and want to show students that it is okay to talk about how you feel. MK explained that the Academy is currently training staff to become mental health first aiders and also, currently involved with external agencies and school counsellors. MK asked the parents if they had any suggestions. One parent answered that it would be good if the students had a range of people they could go too. MK stated that as a DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) he is someone that is trained and that students can speak too. MK also highlighted that there are other DSL's in the school also.</p> <p>One parent suggested also training support staff such as teaching assistants. JH responded that the Academy are trying to get lots of people trained to help pick up any early warning signs. JH explained that at first the Academy is training a minimum of 4 members of staff but will push to train as many other members of staff across the Academy.</p> <p>One parent questioned if the students were asked who they would like to talk to. JH answered yes and that many had said Year Leaders, their tutor or their friends. MK highlighted that many female students were happy to speak to their friends but male students did not want to speak to anyone. He emphasised the importance of wanting to ensure all students felt they could open up at the Academy.</p> <p>JH said that it is hard work being a teenager and there seems to be real impact on mental health for young people at the moment. JH said that she hoped by doing the award things could improve in this area for students. Furthermore, JH highlighted that in the new Ofsted criteria it highlights looking at the whole child which is extremely important. JH also highlighted that this idea links to the Humanutopia project that was spoken about at the last meeting.</p> <p>One parent asked what the procedure would be after the training as taken place. JH stated that at Bluecoat Aspley we have a tight safeguarding system to ensure that things are picked up and assessed by the right person daily.</p>	
<p><b>Improvements for next year (MK)</b></p>	<p>MK asked if any parents had any suggestions about improvements to Parent Council for next year. MK highlighted that some parents have been getting confused with Parent Council and Parents Evening. MK asked the parents if they had any idea about how to get the message out clearly.</p> <p>One parent answered by using a slogan such as 'Parent Council - Your view matters' when texting/emailing parents.</p>	

	<p>MK put forward an idea of sending a letter out at the start of the year to all parents which explains what Parent Council is and also has the dates of each meeting. One parent also suggested letting the students know and asking them to remind parents of the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<p>MK asked if there were any questions or issues.</p> <p>One parent said they were having issues with logging into G4S and Parent Mail. MK responded that he would speak to the office and look into this.</p> <p>Another parent asked what was happening with girl's skirts and socks. JH explained that there has been issues raised in school about the length of skirts. All students were told to ensure their skirts were longer or they would have to change the uniform policy to no socks. JH stated that after a trial period nothing changed so now the school uniform is either trousers or skirts with tights.</p> <p>One parent stated that it is difficult for them to find trousers for their child as the trousers from the uniform shop are too expensive and other ones are too tight. The parent said that her daughter has the same trousers as her friend but they look different. JH explained that Year Leaders are the judge of whether the trousers are too tight and they will have a conversation with them about this. JH stated that as long as they are not drainpipe trousers they should be fine.</p> <p>One parent said they were confused and asked if students could wear long socks. JH answered that there is a complete ban on socks so students can either wear trousers or skirts with tights. Another parent stated that they agreed with the new policy as skirts were getting too short.</p> <p>MK thanked everyone for their attention and welcomed them to attend the next meeting in the next academic year.</p>	<p>MK to look into the issue.</p>

**Future Parent Council Dates: TBC**