

# Parent Council Meeting November 2019

Date/Time: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 4:30pm

Location: LA04 Bluecoat Aspley Academy

Chair: MK

Present: MK, DP.



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

Item		Actions
<b>Welcome</b>	<p>MK thanked everyone for attendance and welcomed new parents. MK introduced his role as Senior Year Leader and as a safeguarding lead.</p>	
<b>Purpose of Parent Council</b>	<p>MK stated that Parent Council is a way to keep communication between school and parents and a way to keep parents a part of any changes. MK also stated that Parent Council gives parents a chance to give their idea and suggestions when launching new idea.</p> <p>MK confirmed dates of the Parent Council meetings for the year (12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020).</p> <p>MK said that texts, emails and letters had been sent out as a way to inform parents of this evenings Parents Council. MK asked parents if they had received any of these, and if so, which form of communication made them want to attend. The majority of parents answered that they received all of them.</p>	
<b>New Principle</b>	<p>MK stated that CJR will be going on maternity leave on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 and a new principle will be covering until July 2020. MK said that staff members will be finding out this week and that unfortunately he cannot say who the new Principal is to parents yet.</p>	
<b>Transition</b>	<p>MK asked Year 7 Parents how they found the transition process (two days in September and activity days). One parent responded that they found the transition really easy and that their child enjoyed every minute of it. She said that her daughter had fun but was also informed of the real expectations of school and that she loved the constant communication from the school.</p> <p>Another parent responded that she was happy and that it felt like her child wasn't a new member and made friends easily. MK stated that at the Academy we want all Year 7's to have that experience.</p> <p>MK asked parents if they had any suggestions or negatives about the transition process or Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening. One parent said that the evening was very informative but suggested having biscuits available for parents as it is a long evening.</p> <p>MK asked how parents found the 5 minute slot with the tutor. One parent responded that it was good and she was able to express her daughter's anxiety over the dramatic change to secondary school. MK said that he understands the transition is big and daunting but reassured parents that soon the students will know the schools expectations.</p> <p>MK explained that if students are worried Year Leaders are available who are non-teaching staff to support students. MK explained that</p>	

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Principal: Cath Rowell

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Registered Office: Aspley Lane, Nottingham, NG8 5GY



	<p>unfortunately at break and lunch Year Leaders are on duty but emphasised that students can speak to their Year Leaders at any time for support.</p> <p>One parent commented that when she rang the office to speak to a Year Leader she got a response the same day. MK thanked parents for their feedback and stated that the Year Leaders always try their best to contact parents back but sometimes it is not possible for it to be immediate. Another parent stated that they have had responses out of school hours and was impressed by the communication. MK responded that this is why the Academy sends so many texts and letters to keep parents involved.</p>	
<p><b>New punctuality procedure</b></p>	<p>MK highlighted that punctuality has not improved for a period of time. MK explained that currently when students are late they get a break time detention and then if they miss that detention, they get an hour after-school detention. MK stated that there has been no improvements so now a new procedure is being launched next week (18<sup>th</sup> November 2019).</p> <p>MK explained that with the new punctuality procedure, when a student is late the first time they will complete a detention 15 minutes after-school. If they are late for a second time, they will again complete 15 minutes after-school. If they are late for a third time they will receive a negative point and have to complete an hour after-school. MK highlighted that students must complete the full 15 minutes, so this will start at the time of their arrival in the detention room. MK then explained that if students hit 5 negative points then they will go onto report and will have to attend Saturday catch-up. MK explained that texts would be sent to all parents in the afternoon to inform them.</p> <p>MK asked for parent's opinion on this new procedure. One parent asked what happens if they are genuine reasons. MK answered that it will depend on the situation and if there is a genuine reason and the student has a note for example, they can be removed by the Year Leader. MK stated that the Academy does not issue students with a late if it is due to the school bus or if the reason is genuine. DP highlighted that this procedure is for persistent offenders and for students who have reasons such as walking slow and woke up late.</p> <p>MK stated that negatives might be higher as students get used to the new system. One parent added that this will be balanced by the amount of positive points students get.</p>	
<p><b>Saturday workshop update</b></p>	<p>MK stated that Saturday workshops used to take place once every half term and were used to tackle term time holidays. MK explained that now Saturday workshops were taking place every two weeks for term time absences and behaviour (when students hit 5 negatives). MK explained that the work shop is for 2 hours (8:30am-10:30am) and work is collected for the students to complete in a tutor room.</p> <p>One parent asked what happens if a student doesn't turn up and MK responded that they have to attend the following session. Another parent asked if this was a form of discipline and MK answered that is not a punishment but a consequence. MK said that it is run by Year Leaders and that the Academy wants what is best for the students.</p> <p>Another parent asked if the Academy is punishing the students, for example when the parents choose to go on holiday. MK answered that</p>	

	<p>when students miss time off school for a leave of absence they miss a large amount of learning and work and this ensures that they can catch up.</p>	
<b>Behaviour update</b>	<p>MK explained that at Bluecoat Aspley positive points are given that can be turned into rewards. MK went on to explain that the procedure for receiving negative points is that students are given a warning and if the negative behaviour continues after this warning then they are given a negative point (1 hour after-school detention). MK stated that if students received 5 negative points in a term they are put in Saturday catch-up and on green report and if they receive 10 in a term they are put on orange report and are in ILU for one day. MK stated that if students receive 15 negative points in a term they are put on red report, monitored by SLT and spend time in ILU at another campus. MK explained that if a student hits 20 negatives in a term this is a fixed term exclusion but this is extremely rare.</p> <p>MK stated that the focus this term is on behaviour within the classroom and showed the parents a chart on the board which showed that negative points are lower this term than previous years. MK explained that one of the reasons for this is that Year Leaders are going in and out of lessons and checking them and due to seating plans.</p> <p>MK highlighted that the main reason for receiving a negative point is low level classroom disruption and this is something that the Academy is working on and hoping it drops each term. One parent asked why it was so much lower in the Spring Term and MK responded that the term is 6 weeks so it slightly shorter. Another parent asked what a neutral point was and MK explained that this is where something is logged such as a letter or phone call, it is neither positive nor negative.</p>	
<b>Homework</b>	<p>MK showed parents an example of a homework log and explained that previously homework was given out inconsistently. MK explained that this log shows that homework is higher but this is due to there being a big focus on homework this year. MK stated that students are put into homework club if they have not completed work, not brought it in on time or not completed it to the correct standard. MK went on to explain that it is different for Year 11 as they have RAP sessions after-school so they complete homework club on a Thursday. One parent asked if subject teachers set homework on the same days every week and MK responded that there was no set time.</p> <p>One parent stated that their child had been set 17 pieces at once. MK responded that he would look into this and understands that it is a lot.</p> <p>Another parent asked why Spanish is the subject that her child is learning and that the school should provide more of a variety. MK stated that he would look into this by speaking to the head of languages.</p> <p>Another parent asked if there was an option for children to study an extra language if they were interested as students who want to study languages at A-level and University level need to have studied at least 2 languages. MK responded that he would speak to the head of languages regarding this.</p>	<p>MK to look into large amount of homework being set at the same time</p> <p>MK to speak to the head of languages regarding language options</p>
<b>Building update</b>	<p>MK stated that phase two of the building works will be completed by February half term and is on track.</p> <p>MK highlighted that all building work should be complete by September 2020.</p>	

<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One parent said that their child has had to stay behind twice for a stress workshop but she had not be informed. MK apologised and stated that he would get a message out to all staff to always inform the office to send texts home if students are staying behind.</li> <li>• Another parent suggested taster sessions being available for students before they pick their options in subjects such as Business and Sociology. MK said that he would look into this.</li> <li>• One parent asked if students have reading assessments. MK responded that students do reading assessments and if they are flagged up as scoring low they can receive extra support such as a TA. MK advised the parent to speak to Miss Bacon.</li> <li>• One parent stated that they always expected their child to attend BAA but when they went to the open evening their daughter said that the school appeared dull, clinical, not creative and more focused on discipline. She stated that the primary school visits could be improved as the staff member did not know all the answers to questions being asked. MK thanked the parent for their feedback and would said he pass on this information.</li> <li>• One parent asked if the school does dyslexia tests for students. MK answered yes and that learning support deal with them.</li> <li>• Another parent asked if sport can be limited at school as her friends son had been injured playing football at another school. MK stated that at break and lunch staff are around to monitor and ensure students are playing safely.</li> <li>• One parent stated that her child in Year 7 gets very little homework. She said that her child is not given enough and that 10-30 mins of homework is too small. Another parent added that from Year 7-9 the students get very little homework and then are shocked in Year 10-11 when they get a lot more. She stated that students need to be trained and not overwhelmed by all the work suddenly. MK responded that he would speak to Miss Bacon regarding homework for Year 7 and look into excessive homework being set for other years.</li> </ul> <p>MK thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed them to attend the next meeting in the next academic year.</p>	<p>MK to remind staff to inform the office if students are staying behind after-school in order to send texts.</p> <p>MK to look into taster sessions for students.</p> <p>MK to pass on feedback for open days and transition process to transition leader.</p> <p>MK to speak to SB about more homework for Year 7.</p> <p>MK to look into excessive homework being set for older years.</p>

**Future Parent Council Dates: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019**