

# Cardinal Hume Catholic School

## Parent Partners Meeting - LPPA

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**Date:**  
22/03/2017

**Time:**  
6pm

**Venue:**  
CHCS

Apologies: - D Addison, M Ndam

Present:- R Flint, F Brennan, M Hopwood, L Maguire, G Bolton, D Cook, C McKenzie, S Butler,  
C Wardrobe, L Annable-Armitage, K Flynn, R McNally

**Topics discussed:-**

1. Consultation Day new format
2. Curriculum summaries - review
3. 6<sup>th</sup> Form Destinations
4. Parental questionnaires
5. AOB

**Comments;**

**Consultation Day new format**

- It was felt that overall the new style Consultation days where parents meet the individual teachers instead of just the tutors was a better approach. One parent mentioned that she waited 2 hours to see a teacher and another said that she attended from 3 – 6pm and saw all but one teacher. Moving the start time to 2.30pm from 4pm was not thought to have improved waiting times, however, it was agreed that the earlier time might enable parents more parents overall to attend depending on their work patterns.
- Parents liked being able to talk directly to the teachers and as specific questions there and then and most felt that the teachers really knew their child.
- It was suggested that to ease the queuing times perhaps older children could be asked to attend to direct parents to teachers that are not occupied. Parents often don't actually know the names and faces of their child's teacher and so it is often the case that the teacher they need to see is ready and waiting but the parent doesn't know this. Name badges are generally too far away to be seen.
- Finding a location in school which allows for more teachers to be visible at once was another suggestion allowing parents to gauge the length of the queue relevant to them.
- Another parent suggested that the letter advising of the event perhaps could contain some guidance advising parents that while every effort is made to enable parents to see all the teachers, it may be worth prioritising the subject teachers they most want/need to talk to in case they don't get time to see them all.
- Tutor welcome evenings still take place for Year 7 parents in the Autumn term and this was welcomed.
- Reports are now sent out in advance of the meeting. Large numbers of parents have asked that they are sent electronically.

## Curriculum Summaries

- Parents would like to use the curriculum content on the website to forward plan with their child the topic that would next be covered in a subject in school. Consideration to be given to how the content is listed and guidance given on the website as to whether the school lessons will follow this list accurately.
- **Update 25/1/17** – Ros issued and requested feedback on an example of an English curriculum summary which had been prepared. This was well received with only one additional suggestion to include how often the Assessments would take place, within the Assessment column. This template will now be put forward for discussion within school.
- **Update 22/3/17** – Booklets containing information about the options available to Year 10 pupils were sent out in advance of the Options evening and found to be helpful. A selection of Curriculum summaries which have been forwarded to the Senior Leader team for approval were provided to the meeting, namely KS3 Girls PE, French and Spanish Module 1 Year 7 and Re for Year 7. Parents agreed that this level of detail was good and would allow them to be better prepared and able to help guide their children when doing homework/revision.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Destinations

- Mrs Ndam had requested this topic be included on the agenda but was unable to attend the meeting so Mrs Flint suggested it be covered briefly and then added at a later meeting when Mrs Ndam was present.
- A sheet showing a summary of destinations from 2013 – 2016 including percentages of children moving on to Russell Group Universities and Oxbridge was handed out. It was clear that there is an increasing trend and parents were pleased to hear that school actively encourages children to consider the best University for their chosen subject/career and to move away from home if necessary. Traditionally children tended to choose local Universities more often than not.
- It was also mentioned that as the cost of going to University is increasing, Higher Apprenticeships are becoming popular where children gain a degree whilst working, thereby reducing debt, so it will be interesting to see whether this trend continues.

## Parental Questionnaires

- Two Questionnaires were made available to attendees, the Parent View and Ofsted versions. Mrs Flint asked parents to review then and suggest any amendments or additional questions they would like to see.
- A question along the lines of - School encourages my child to look ahead and plan for their future career at all stages - was suggested. This links in with what the school clearly already do within Years 10 – 13.
- Question 5 was felt to be ambiguous and may need to be re-worded. Parents cannot say first hand whether their child is being taught well as they are not present. They can only surmise based on results which is not the same thing. A child can be taught badly and still do reasonably well, but could maybe have done better and vice versa.
- Mrs Flint suggested that a question relating to how well the school communicates with parents could be added.
- Another question relating to preparation of children for life skills within school as opposed to just academic skills was suggested.
- It is planned to use Survey Monkey perhaps twice a year to gain parents views with a limited window of a week each time for returns. Someone suggested an incentive scheme be considered in the form of a small prize draw to encourage more parents to complete the surveys.

## School Website – carried forward as unresolved

- It was felt that the website contained old information. It has been suggested in the past that the date be listed alongside the topic in the school letters section so parents can easily see what is relevant to them before opening. This was agreed as an idea that would be very helpful. Old information is useful to see what type of activity takes place at school but the date would be needed.
- **Update 25/1/17 – This is still a work in progress**
- **Update 22/3/17 – The dates have still not been added to the parents letters page to allow parents to easily identify when the letter was issued, without having to actually open the letter.**

#### **AOB**

- Mrs Flint advised that Fiona Brennan had been into school to talk to Year 8 children about Meningitis and Septicaemia and handed out small purse size cards showing signs and symptoms. Fiona is now the Regional Community Ambassador for this cause having suffered a personal loss. She is planning to visit school to talk to 6<sup>th</sup> formers in the near future to raise awareness.
- Family Learning - Mrs Flint advised that the next set of children will be preparing to transition to CHCS in the Summer term and asked whether the parents in this group would be prepared to attend at the end of some of the Family Learning Sessions to answer any questions new parents may have. Ros will advise when the sessions are so parents can sign up for their preference.

**Date:**  
**Thursday 18/05/17**

**Time:**  
**6pm**

**Venue:**  
**School**