

## **Ipswich Academy Council Meeting**

**18 September 2024 at 5:30pm**

### **Attendees**

Principal - Samuel Fox

Claire Cooper – Academy Council Member - Minute taker

Louise Leah – Academy Council Member

Julie Cann – Academy Council Member

Kevin Brazier - Academy Council Member

Jo Bown - Academy Council Member

19 parents/carers online

### **AGENDA**

#### **Introduction and Apologies**

Mr Fox welcomed parents/carers to the meeting. Mr Fox reported he feels there is a positive start to the year in terms of behaviour and work produced.

#### **School Day Timings**

There has been a positive response from students especially with regards to lunchtime then only 1 hour left. Response from parents is happy. Lots of students eat dinner at breaktime. Aware of concerns of students leaving at 4pm in Winter, will be discussed further next meeting if needed. No comments from students about the start of day being earlier. Gates open at 8:20 but doors open at 8:37 then straight to their base group. No hanging around outside of school which is better. Staff are placed around the school site. Seems to be working well and a smoother start to the day. Mr Fox saying hello to all students and encouraging a positive response back!.

#### **Homework**

Making sure all students can access Google Classroom, especially new year 7 students. Believe any teething issues are resolved. Any issues students should speak to their base group tutor. An issue raised by parents is that some students in the same class get homework and others haven't. The school is monitoring this more stringently and making sure homework is set that is useful to students. Homework can be paper based also and with Maths homework through Sparks. Encouraging students to stay in school and use the study hub. All year groups can now access the study hub by the entrance to school. Staff will be present, but students can also check in with their teacher. There is a slight pick up but not as many as school would like. Should also be utilising their student planners. Need to have a planner with them at all times e.g. going to the toilet. There have been some issues with Sparks website, Mr Fox advised it should be working now. Parents can write any issues in their school planner. Students should have their planner out and ready for base group at the start of the day. If they haven't they will be given paper to record on for the day and then transfer to their planner. A parent asked how parents can see what homework is set on Google Classroom. Mr Fox will consider sharing student logins on MCAS to parents and follow this up.

#### **Uniform**

Thank you to parents, uniform has been good across all year groups and adhering to expectations. Information is on the school website if needed. Currently an amnesty about shirts being tucked in which has resulted in a massive improvement. Mr Fox is doing a tally each morning, only 35 out of 989 students did not have perfect uniform this morning. Repeatedly telling them to tuck their shirts in should get boring so they just do it anyway

is the plan. Note in planner for any incorrect uniform for a valid reason. No ties still in the uniform shop so keep a note in the planner, hopefully it will be rectified soon.

Last year lots of issues with leggings, there has been a huge reduction this year. If there are leggings with no good reason or note they will be in isolation. There are spare trousers in school that can be leant/given to students if needed. Teachers will log a C1 to send an automatic text to parents from next week if a student is not in the correct uniform. Base group tutors are also encouraged to call parents if they can. Ties in summer months when it's very hot will be monitored and decided upon nearer the time. A parent asked about the clip-on tie rather than proper tie. Mr Fox advised they have always had clip on ties, one reason was to make it easier for students. If the uniform shop chooses to sell both students can wear either. Mrs Cook advised her previous experience meant students wore ties either very short or long, the clip-on ties are more uniform. A parent asked on behalf of her daughter about having to have natural hair colour as it doesn't affect learning. Mr Fox advised it is a consistent expectation around smartness for students to have a natural hair colour.

## **Staffing**

There have been issues with staffing last year with staff leaving and time taken to recruit new staff. Vacancy in science currently, cover supervisors are taking those lessons and supported by science staff. There is an advert out at the moment. Dr Rogers is in charge of progress and standards and is working closely with cover staff to provide good quality lessons. Couple of staff off sick but utilising cover staff and other staff. All of the teachers deliver lessons to students ensuring high level teaching and standards. Issues discussed in post Ofsted meetings last year.

## **Behaviour and Sanctions**

The reward system has been updated this year. The Senior Leadership Team along with staff have produced a clear poster for students around the school showing rewards and consequences. Students report they like the way the school is promoting this including the stamps for good behaviour in the corridors and outside of lessons. Wanting more feedback from students and parents to know if it's working better and that stamps are being earned. Mrs Cook will be doing analysis of house points system and gathering data. For staff to be alert to those students who are not getting house points. There has been a discrepancy with year 8 students getting too many house points for their present mark. Parents may notice a change in their numbers. Year 11 students have not been getting enough so this will also be looked at and rectified to ensure all students are getting the correct number. Mrs Cook will be checking it is all fairly done. Some surveys will be going to students, staff and within the weekly parent survey for feedback. Amendments can then be made. Parent feedback is positive. Parents asked about detention and students being allowed to inform parents – Mr Fox advised they are allowed to and will reiterate this with hub staff.

## **After school clubs**

No payment needed or written permission. Students can just come along and should tell parents. Other extra-curricular clubs will start in the next couple of weeks. Base group teachers can let students know about clubs; they will also be on the school website.

## **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

PE teacher Miss Perks will be running it and starts tomorrow on Thursday afternoons. Mr Fox will ensure clubs are sent home to inform parents. Base group staff have been asked to share it, but this may have been delayed due to assemblies. If anyone wants to sign up to DoE they can and is being encouraged by staff.

## **AOB**

School website is a great improvement with lots of information and is easy to navigate. Updated medical procedure that will be shared with parents/carers about students carrying medication in their bags. Nonprescription medication e.g. paracetamol – parents to inform via MCAS app rather than just bring in. Some discussion about adding a page for medication on the MCAS app. Prescription medication can be bought in and parents fill in a form at reception, medication will be kept by staff. Hopefully an update by the end of week letter. Any letters sent out by the school are on the website in 'latest news' section.

Parents asked about issues raised by Ofsted, are there updates for parents. Regular Academy Council meetings will cover the 3 main focuses.

Mrs Cook reminded everyone of the adult education courses which are on a page on the website. Not just for parents/carers but also those in the community. Courses are held at Ipswich Academy with computer access and refreshments. Just need to sign up and need a National Insurance number. Can only sign up for the most recent at a time. The more people that can sign up the more it will help the students. One parent asked if she doesn't have a NI number how she attends, Mrs Cook will explore this separately. Parents asked if they only run during the day, they have previously been 10-2 or 2-5, courses are run by West Suffolk College so this could be explored further if impacts on parents attending. Mr Fox suggested they may be able to be run by staff in the future.

Mr Fox thanked everyone for the support and attending.

**END**