

## **Ipswich Academy Council Meeting minutes 18 March 2026 at 5.30 pm**

### **Introduction and apologies for absence**

Present: Adam Wilding (AW) Principal, Jo Brown - Parent Director, Les Pipe - Link Director Paradigm Trust, Julie Trout and Kevin Brazier - Academy Council, 2 parents joined in person, Claire Cooper – Academy Council and another parent joined online

**Apologies for absence:** Louise Leah, Academy Council

### **Update on communication**

A parent was struggling to open minutes of last meeting. AW confirmed they are always available on IA website and will ensure they are attached as PDF to agenda in future.

A parent gave positive feedback for year 7, being advised when homework had been completed and music lessons during school day.

AW advised alerts were now being sent to parents if a student arrives late to lessons. They will be advised how late they were and that the student will receive a 30-minute detention.

### **New parent members recruitment process**

Four council members will be leaving at the end of the school year when their children finish school, as yet no new parents have stepped forward to join. Jo will circulate via facebook group and council members will do the same on the parent facebook group. It was agreed council members would write some testimonials that can be shared on the group too.

### **Uniform**

AW reported there had been an error in the order of new jumpers which means they won't now be changed from September. AW feels more schools are moving towards "active uniform" and asked parents whether they felt this was something IA should be looking at. Rather than ties, top button open on white shirt and black v neck jumper with purple trim. Due to the error, the uniform supplier will give a £5 reduction on the jumpers. Ties cost £8 each and these are often lost or broken. Active uniforms would lessen the cost for parents and stop time spent policing uniforms.

Parents at the meeting mainly agreed on this approach and felt this would ease the burden on parents for students with sensory issues and allow a transition from primary school. AW had discussed previously about changing to non-clip ties and having a different colour for each school year. However, giving consideration, he now feels a purple trim jumper would be more affordable.

A couple of parents felt that a more traditional uniform would be preferable. AW will get students feedback too.

### **Timings of the school day**

Agreed 3.10 pm finish, 8.40 am start, base group time 30 minutes. AW currently looking at alternative models for the school day.

## **Staffing Update**

A letter has just been sent home to year 11 parents regarding Mr Cowley leaving at Easter and the new English teacher not joining until 8 June. To avoid temporary cover at such a critical time, Mr Webb-Cook will pick up Mr Cowley's students in a merged class being held in the arena. AW feels the process will help Yr 11s through.

A new Senco teacher starts after Easter and will be based here.

## **Year 9 options process**

Deadline has passed and AW advised still mopping up a few but once sorted will put a timetable together. Outcome of options letter probably won't be until May half term as there is a lot of work to do before then.

## **Feedback on extra curricular activities**

AW asked for parents' thoughts on extra curricular activities. He advised they were all on the school website, a new dungeons & dragons has started which is proving popular. Parents felt offering was good, particularly free music lessons.

AW asked year 11 parents about intervention opportunities. Parents felt these were good and some teachers were also offering students more support if required. AW is looking to open school earlier 7.30 – 8.30 am so year 11s can go into study hub. After Easter late night study will be introduced too. AW advised interventions were well attended.

## **Any Other Business**

A parent asked about laptops in business studies class, a requirement for the lesson. There were only 5 available in a class of 30, where were the other 25? AW advised laptop trolley isn't always organised, there is work to be done, often they need charging.

Also in a history lesson, a student did a Hitler salute and stated he was GOAT. The teacher didn't react or respond, the student didn't get a C3, isn't this something that should be pushed back? AW asked if the parent could discuss this outside of the meeting and he will follow up. The parent felt her child was losing respect for teachers.

Another parent asked for AW's response to this? Education and challenge in the moment. Follow up by the teacher with student and then lead to action whatever that might be.

When will year 11 mock results be sent out? AW will check, hoping before Easter.

Year 11 GCSE timetable when will this be available – again very soon after Easter. What about clash on timetable with exams (3 in one day). Student will need to be kept separate and sit 3<sup>rd</sup> exam that day, not allowed off site. Should only affect small number of students and school will liaise with parents directly.

Year 11 last day, will there be a day when they come back to school to sign shirts (this happened last year) and say goodbye to teachers or will this be the last exam day? AW said makes sense for this to be day of last exam, this is what he would expect, but will check.

Pushing in lunch lines still happening, teachers aren't often there as finalising last class. AW said the school has invested in barriers, staff are on duty but it is a work in progress, monitoring. Duty rota try to map it so teachers are near to canteen.

**Date of next meeting**

13 May 2026

Meeting closed 6.30 pm