

**The Parents' Forum**  
**The Hereford Academy**  
**Community Learning Centre**  
**16<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Present:**

**Parents:**, Mrs E Phillips, Mrs C James, Mrs C White, Mr and Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mr L Attwood, , Mrs M Bufton, Mrs S Leonard, Ms D Williams, Mrs A Pinches

**Staff:** Sally Kowal (SK),

**Apologies:** Ms K Fitch, Ms K Meany, Mr and Mrs Apperley, Mrs Matthews, Mrs McGowan, Mrs L Collins, Mrs H Small, Ms C Harding

1. Minutes of last meeting (2/2/10)
  - Read and agreed. Claire White asked if she can receive minutes for Healthy Schools Food Group- CF to arrange
  - E Safety Evening to be arranged for next term, date tbc.
  - Parents present felt access to EPortal very useful and had been using it at home
  - In summer term, we will arrange various activities to include parent dates tbc, including Community Day and Bingo!
2. Course leaflet given out to publicise courses at Community Learning Centre for next term. Contact L. Kelso- [lkelso@theherefordacademy.org.uk](mailto:lkelso@theherefordacademy.org.uk) for more information.
3. SK outlined **Community Cohesion Policy** and explained how schools have to promote cohesion. Discussion took place about issues and those present agreed with the contents of the policy.
4. **Parent Partnership Policy**- discussion about this policy and its contents. It was agreed that this was acceptable to parents/carers present

An interesting point for staff to note is that parents/carers often find their child's report too technical- full of jargon, which they do not find helpful. Plain speak instead would be preferable in order to help them to support their child. They are still not clear about levels- a,b,c and what is acceptable at certain ages.

The Academy needs to look at this and possibly have advice on these matters. SK briefly explained at the meeting, but further development needed.

5. Free Easter Holiday Activities- flier and application form issued events on 14<sup>th</sup> April 10-3 Sports Activity for 10- 14 yr olds  
15<sup>th</sup> April 10-3 Arts and Craft for 10-14 yr olds  
Contact Jo Williams on [jwilliams@theherefordacademy.org.uk](mailto:jwilliams@theherefordacademy.org.uk)
6. **MIRA Project**  
SK explained that there would be a meeting for parents/carers of Polish students on Tues 4<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm, in the Infozone.  
This is with Adam, Polish CSO and local Police team to discuss any issues re school, community that Polish members of community may have.  
School is going to work with Cultural Diversity Team from Hereford council on a project for Eastern European families and students.  
This will enable us to translate letters, prospectuses etc and to encourage families to feel more included.
7. **ECM**  
SK outlined award school is working towards. Claire White showed an interest in being involved. (claire@pcbe.fsnet.co.uk)
8. **LPPA**  
Continuing to build portfolio of evidence with a view to achieving in Summer Term. IARAP needs reviewing again- Claire White offered to come in and review with SK.  
  
Parent Forum very important to inform future planning. Parents/carers asked to email SK comments re their views about the Forum and suggestions for further discussion/how to improve meetings etc (skowal@the herefordacademy.org.uk)  
General feeling from those present was that they were disappointed more parents/carers do not attend considering how many students there are at the Academy.
9. **Parents as Learners**  
SK has purchased several modules to deliver to parents about how to support their child's learning. She delivered module 1 and gave handouts:
  - a.) How do you like to learn for adult/child?
  - b.) how well do you know your child?  
- if possible complete and bring to next meeting.
  - c.) Guides to help with Maths  
Guides to help with Home Learning  
Learning outside of school  
Helping with Reading  
Towards Exams success

We can translate these into various languages if required.

**10. A.O.B**

SK issued THA Curriculum newsletter which will be issued termly to parents to help them to be involved with their child's learning. It is being posted home to the other parents. Request that if parents have more than one child, only one copy to be sent (e.g. Triplets)

Request that general letters be put on the website as pupil post is often very unreliable. Action CF

THA Homework Timetable has already been sent home.

Planners are not being used regularly and are not being signed by some parents/carers. This needs addressing, certainly from new academic year. Academy staff need to encourage use of planners in every lesson and also sign them.

**Meeting closed** 8.30pm

**Next meeting** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 7pm at The Community Learning Centre