

**The Parents' Forum**  
**The Hereford Academy Community Learning Centre**

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Present:**

**Parents:** Mrs E Phillips, Mrs C James, Mrs C White, Mrs Fitzpatrick, , Mrs M Bufton, Mrs S Leonard, Ms D Williams, Mrs A Pinches, Ms K Fitch, Ms C Harding

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

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

**1. Literacy Skills at the Academy**

Mrs D Prosser spoke to the group about literacy and a booklet produced by Mrs Ormond was shown to them.

Discussion took place and it was felt that it should be targeted at Year 7 parents initially in order to extend their children's primary skills.

- Parents felt there was too much emphases on 'Dads'.
- More pictures should be included of comics/leaflets/other reading matter
- A suggested reading list would be useful.
- An adult reading group might be a good idea
- Buddy reading is very positive

**2. Gifted and Talented**

In response to the last Parents' Forum, Mr R Thorley attended.

He explained                    'Gifted' means academically gifted.  
   'Talented' means good at something, usually non-academic.

Whole groups are not taken on trips due to their different gifts and talents. Curriculum areas should provide enrichment. E.g. student talented in Gymnastics had funding towards a special course to improve performance.

Curriculum areas should notify parents if their child is G&T. Several parents were surprised to find out their child was identified as G&T and 1 in particular that their child was in top 5% generally and 4 subjects. **VERY IMPORTANT THAT STAFF NOTIFY STUDENTS AND PARENTS.**

Audit of G&T discussed and explained by RT and G&T policy shown to parents and given copies to read and comment on.

Several parents felt that Academic tutoring was not informative enough because they are unable to speak to subject teachers.

A G&T Parents Evening was suggested as a possibility.

**3. Minutes from Previous meeting read and agreed.**

#### 4. **Relationship and Sex Policy Review**

New policy written by TE was read and discussed. SK clarified various points and parents agreed, on the whole, with the policy.

#### 5. **A.) Community Fun Day- June 12<sup>th</sup> 11.30am-3.30pm**

SK explained that this has a multi-cultural theme including Bollywood dancing, cooking demonstrations and workshops, circus skills.  
Several parents are willing to help- all welcome

#### **B.) Parents Pamper Morning- June 16<sup>th</sup>- 9.30am- 11.30am**

To be held at the Jubilee Hall, next to CLC. Cooking, fruit/veg carving, boxercise, Thai Foot massage, manicures/Pedicures, colour consultations.

#### 6. **Health and Beauty Models needed- male and female**

SK explained that models are needed for eyelash perming, tinting, facials, pedicures, make-up and waxing.

**Please contact Donna Sockett 01432 35521 ext 158.**

#### 7. **AOB**

##### **1. Attendance**

One parent had received a text at 2.30pm to say her daughter was not in school- she was on a school trip.

Staff must inform attendance office of students on trips.

##### **2. PE**

A Year 10 parent was concerned that her daughter had been doing a warm up which consisted of running across the field and then running around it 8 times. Concerned about this being too strenuous.

3. Complaint about quality of food being served in the dining room and prices being charged.

##### **4. Activity days**

Concern that this year, students had had no choice and were being made to do activities they really do not want to participate in e.g Bodenham Lakes, Taste for Adventure. Parents reluctant to sign forms and have to pay as their children have said they would prefer to stay in school.

Sk explained rationale behind this decision and discussed difficulties of having forms not returned and choices changed in previous years.

5. Two parents questioned why students had been advised to purchase a purple fleece when they never wear them (although teenagers never wear coats). Felt they should be taken off uniform list.

6. A Parent of a Year 8 Student discussed an incident that had happened and their child believed there had been no action. SK was able to re-assure her there had been considerable action and follow up, although due to data protection could not disclose information.

