

## PARENTS FORUM MINUTES

6.00pm – 7.30pm

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015

### **Academic Performance Summer 2015**

An outline of support available to Year 11 students was given, including:

1. After-School Revision sessions beginning after half-term.
2. Saturday morning 'Booster' sessions.
3. All Year 11 students have a weekly mentor meeting.

GCSE & BTEC exams:

4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> November for Year 12 re-sit GCSE English and maths.

16<sup>th</sup> December for Year 11 BTEC Engineering.

January for Year 11 GCSE English literature, BTEC Business & H& S Care and Year 10 BTEC Travel & Tourism.

In between these exams Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be sitting mock exams in their subjects.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is currently above national average – 95.2% against 94.8%

### **Teaching and Learning**

A series of lesson observations have just been completed. We focused on all of our new members of staff and Years 7 & 9.

### **Staffing**

We have successfully recruited 16 new members of staff and are currently fully staffed. This is very impressive in the current market conditions for maths and science teachers. Each new colleague has been given a mentor and has had a thorough induction programme.

A job advert is currently on the Trust web site for 6 reader/scribe positions. If you know anyone that is interested please let us know.

### **B-Y-O-D**

The Academy received delivery of 313 laptops on Tuesday afternoon this week. The IT team are making rapid progress in preparing them for release to students next week.

### **Show My Homework**

We introduced this new way of recording homework for all students at the start of term. Parents can see the homework set, when it is marked and, if appropriate the grade/mark achieved.

### **Doddle**

A new learning resource has been purchased to support the learning in Years 7 to 11. It can be accessed from home, on mobiles etc

### **Discovery Learning**

We have upgraded our Channel 4 Learning to a new web-based service and will be rolled out during Module 2

### **CAT Tests**

All of our Year 7 students will be doing the CAT literacy tests over the next two weeks during their IT lessons.

### **Calendar**

See web site. A provisional Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 external examination and mock examination timetable for January 2016 is on the web site under the Exams tab.

A.O.B.

Concerns were raised about school buses and coaches mounting the kerbs at peak times. An online petition has been set up. Mr Dedross to bring this to the attention of our staff to support the need for action following the accident where a student was hit by a bus. A Facebook group has been set up called Wilmington Safer Streets.

Barry Dedross  
Assistant Principal

## **1. CEIAG (Careers Education, Information and Guidance)**

Wilmington Academy's application for Investors in Careers – Level One has been submitted and the resulting decision will be communicated at the next meeting and via the Academy website.

## **2. Upcoming Events**

Parents were informed of the following upcoming events.

- a. 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 - Community Christmas Tea Party
- b. 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 - Year 7 Christmas Pantomime Trip
- c. 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 - Year 7 Parents Evening
- d. 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 - Post-16 Progress Evening
- e. 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 - INSET Day - Cross-Trust CPD
- f. Upcoming trips in 2015 – Germany/Poland, Brussels (European Parliament), New York, Italy (Ski Trip), Bath (Summer 2015).

## **3. A.O.B.**

SIMS – There have been some issues with the recording of homework submitted on SIMS. PDE will be meeting with a staff member to ascertain how the issues can be resolved.

Admissions 2015 – It was reported that applications for the Academy for September 2015 are even higher than last year and we are very oversubscribed with over 1,000 applications. Parents were thanked for their support and the positive feedback they give to the local community about the Academy.

Parents were informed about Wilmington Academy's strong presence in Dartford on Remembrance Sunday, where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Academy. The students featured on the Mayor of Dartford's webpage about the commemoration.