

MINUTES OF PARENTS' FORUM MEETING 18/3/2015
Batley Girls' High School – Visual Arts College

Item		Action
1.	Welcome & Introductions	
	<p>Present: Julie Haigh , Ann McCall(Co Heads), Iffat Ahmad (Chair & Community Liaison), David Cooper (Deputy Head), 14 Parents</p>	
2.	<p>Julie Haigh & Ann McCall:</p> <p>The Co-Heads shared some very good news after Inspectors from Ofsted visited our school in March and spoke to staff and parents from Key stage 3. They were impressed with our provision; the school will be shown as a case study for Key Stage 3.</p> <p>The Co-Heads and Head of Sixth Form, Dave Cooper, have been invited to deliver presentations at the SSAT Achievement Show at Twickenham on 26 June on co-Headship as a model of school leadership and Transforming Post-16 Learning.</p> <p>Multi Academy Trust: It is proposed by the Governing Body and Leadership team that Batley Girls' High School becomes a multi-academy trust (MAT), meaning it can support more than one academy school. If BGHS did become a MAT, the intention would be to form a family of local schools, comprising two secondary schools, BGHS and Batley Business and Enterprise College, and a number of local primary schools, enabling us to build further on strategic partnership work to support teaching and learning and raise standards for Batley, Birstall and the wider community.</p> <p>Parents' Forum was very supportive and this proposal and was well received. Discussions took place re community consultation.</p> <p>Julie Haigh thanked the PF group with their input into the staff, student & parent charter.</p>	<p>Co-Heads will send letters to all parents for consultations.</p>
3.	<p>Parents' Event: Iffat Ahmad explained about the initiative to engage parents with Higher Education & Businesses. PF have been to Leeds & Bradford Universities where parents have found the visits informative and parents fed back to the group re their visit to Huddersfield University in April. PF found the campus compact and inspiring. A big vote of thanks to Jane Murphy who works with parents at Huddersfield University, Jane delivered a very clear presentation about Higher Education.</p> <p>Next planned visit is Leeds Trinity University on Thursday 21 May. BGHS is also in partnership with Cummins Turbo Technologies</p>	
4	<p>David Cooper – Parents' Project</p> <p>1. The idea is that Parents' Forum members run community information events and serve as Parent Ambassadors for the school (both in the community, at school and partner events).</p>	

	<p>2. Educate our community & give information gained by parents at PF meeting and external visits.</p> <p>3. Advertise this initiative in community publications/press</p> <p>David Cooper introduced Sarah Bloom who is our Community Mentor. Sarah explained since she has started at the school she has found the students and school very inspiring and that school has its own unique identity. Sarah will be working with hard to reach families in conjunction with PF.</p>	<p>Sarah Bloom to work with Parents on positive role models within the community and hard to reach families.</p>
AOB	<p>Coffee morning to be held on Wednesday 10 June; the community room will be available to set up from 11am. Parents will be bringing in food and school will provide hot /cold drinks & disposable plates etc.</p> <p>Iffat Ahmad suggested that parents may wish to bring a guest. It was also suggested that school staff should be invited during lunchtime to enable parents to meet staff on an informal basis.</p>	IA to supply drinks and invite staff
	<p>Planners: PF were happy with the current format of planners. PF did raise an issue that information on homework is sometimes not clear in their daughters' individual planners. A wider discussion will take place following the focus group surveys.</p>	JCH to follow up
	<p>Uniform: PF asked for a uniform update. Julie Haigh explained the current supplier still has a surplus stock which they need to sell to customers. Blazers will now be included and a higher quality product is being sourced.</p> <p>Visits: IA raised, on behalf of parents, the subject of school visits. There will be a French visit next academic year. Regarding trips and visits this year, there will be an enrichment day within school.</p>	
	<p>The next meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 17 June 10.30am - 12pm</p>	IA will email PF group beforehand