

Old Ford Academy School Council

Tuesday 14th June 2022

Feedback from Pupils on School Lunches

Pupils have been complaining about the food they have for lunch at school

The most popular foods are pizza, burgers and chips. The least popular is vegetables and broccoli and vegetables.

Last council meeting talked about how the menu is balanced but it is dependent on the children selecting all the things on the menu, so they may not choose the vegetables and salad but just choose the pizza to have for their lunch.

The school has been doing a lot of work to encourage the pupils to make healthy choices with their lunches.

Kevin feels that this is a big part of the pupils complaining about the food.

It's not unusual for children not to choose vegetables and salad and a big part of the new tender is to ask the company how they are going to encourage the pupils to eat healthily.

Kevin says he has a school dinner every day and thinks the food is great.

Bill Holledge, (Paradigm Trust CEO) said that school dinners is high up on the agenda for the academy as a whole and that the academy principals monitor the quality of the food that is provided for school dinners everyday. It is an interesting time regarding school food due to the increase in the cost of living challenges that are happening and school principals nationally are lobbying around the funding they get for the school lunches. This hasn't changed over recent times as the cost of providing them has.

The academy has had a contract with the same provider that has meant that they have had to provide the same quality of school lunches irrespective of the rising costs, whereas other schools have not had the same and the costs of their school lunches have had to go up. This is also protected in Tower Hamlets because they fund the cost of providing the school lunches in primary schools. It's a changing picture across the country.

Bill thanked those who put work into the recent tender into who will be providing the lunches over the next few years. It is likely that the vast majority of staff will remain the same, it will just be the company providing the school lunches that will change.

Kevin said the school has a really excellent kitchen team at Old Ford that have been at the school for over 16 years and they have really been able to support the transition over to the new caterers. The school gets £2.30 per child for lunch and the school is constantly looking at ways of helping the pupils eat more healthily.

Year 5 Residential

This is with the Country Trust in Suffolk where the pupils stay in the youth hostel with the visit to the farm and the horses.

The Year 4 Residential

24th June which is an overnight stay at the Ipswich Academy as an introduction to residentials.

Kevin mentioned that one of the schools from Ipswich will be coming to stay at Old Ford as well.

Key Dates Until the End of Term

The meeting was asked about key dates until the end of the year.

Kevin will put all the dates on a document in the weekly newsletter.

Summer Fayre

Saturday 16th July. It was discussed whether to have the Summer Fayre on a Friday night but Saturday was thought to be better at getting some of the traffic from the Roman Road market. The school would like parents to have a say in running the whole thing as many parents have small business, such as making cupcakes and have these up on Instagram and the school would like to create the Summer Fayre and Farmers Market feel with the variety of stalls selling different things. Shabina will be coordinating the Summer Fayre.

Parent Teacher Consultations

This time the school is planning to have meetings only for those parents who request it, so once the school have completed their assessments and reports they will send out a message to all the parents asking if they would like to meet their child's teacher. If they don't, that's fine as the school have already had meetings this year, if they do then they can arrange the time with their teachers. If the meetings are not with every parent then there may be more time to speak to the teacher for those parents who request it. Kevin will put this in the newsletter.

A question from the meeting was about one or two classes having a new teacher. It was suggested that not would be a good idea for the pupil and the parents to have a chance to meet and chat to the new teachers for the next year.

Kevin said that there are not that many new teachers for the next year, but there is a transition day on the 1st July so in the next couple of weeks parents will get a letter about their child's new class and teacher. This is the day that year 6 pupils go to their new secondary school so all the pupils are moved up one year for that day. The pupils get the chance to spend the day with their new teacher in their new class and learn where to line up and if they have to go up the stairs where and how to do that,

where their assembly is and where their playground is. The school does this so that pupils know where to go and what to expect in September.

Another question from the meeting was about a Somali event that is coming up and a couple of weeks on a Friday after school. The meeting was. Not aware of the details but Kevin will double check this and put it in the newsletter.

Parent Survey

Paradigm will be looking to do a parent and carer survey across all the schools in late September or October. The trust has been in touch with a company that has some good information about what parents and carers think about the schools up and down the country. The trust will be looking to send a text message with a link to an online survey. Bill said the school will share this nearer the time and requested we all encourage as many parents and carers to respond to the survey to ensure the school gets as much valuable information about how the schools are doing across the trust. The Trust is keen to find out what they are doing well and what the schools can do even better. Bill requested we all use our connections and networks to get the message out for the survey nearer the time.

It was raised that the survey should be accessible for those parents and carers for whom English is not their first language and for those who are not confident online. It was also suggested that the school provide support and maybe set days where parents and carers can come in to complete the survey with support if they needed it.

Concern at School

One parent raised that when his son asked question in the class, if he doesn't understand something that was said, but his teacher tells him he cannot ask a question because he wasn't listening. The parent requested that Kevin follow up on this. Kevin said that the school wants to encourage the pupils to ask questions and the question may have been asked at a time in the lesson where pupils were meant to be working, but the parent said that this happens regularly in his son's class. Kevin said he would follow this up.

Thanks were given to the parents and carers and school academy council members for attending the meetings throughout the year and making valuable contributions and giving up their time to attend.

This was the last academy council meeting for this academic year.

Minutes taken by Dawud Marsh