

Academy Council Minutes 11/11/25

1. Kevin went through the minutes of the last meeting in September:

- Kevin explained that we had taken feedback from parents and we would be inviting them in to read with their children as part of our Book Trust work. We will once again be working with the Book Trust and they will be providing free books for the children 3 times a year. Parents will be able to join their children at these sessions.
- A parent asked about free breakfast clubs. Kevin said that he would look into this. There is a pilot scheme currently being run by the government, however we are not part of this.
- A parent asked about how Y6 banding worked. Kevin explained that all of our Y6 pupils will be taking tests in the next couple of weeks and this information will be used by secondary schools to group the children. These results will go straight to the secondary schools and will not be given to parents this year. Parents do not need to know their child's band to apply for a secondary school place

2. Parent/teacher meetings:

- A parent asked about these. Kevin confirmed that the main meeting is in January after the first lot of tests are completed. There is a second one held at the end of the year which is open to parents to request an appointment if they wish. This is open to all parents although not all take it up. Kevin said that he would ensure that this is publicised better.
- A parent also requested that the reports the pupils are given are made clearer as parents might not understand some of the terminology used.
- Kevin also said that teachers would be happy to meet with parents at any time of year to discuss their child's progress. Kevin said he would remind all staff of this.

- Finally a parent asked if test papers could be sent home. Kevin said this could happen once the papers had been analysed. (Y6 need to hold onto theirs until the end of the year for moderation purposes)

3. Swimming:

- Parents are really happy with the swimming arrangements and can see real progress in their children - even in the Y4 pupils who only had one lesson a week last half term. Kevin explained the arrangements again and said that the school had combined two terms of swimming lessons into a single term and next term there would be no swimming. The pupils would return to Mile End pool in the summer term.
- A parent asked if staff could help children put on their swimming hats.

4. Reading Plus:

- This is done in school. Pupils are encouraged to do at home if they are able but this is not a strict requirement. Obviously the more they do, the stronger readers they will be!

5. Booster classes:

- We had quite a long discussion around booster classes. Kevin explained that in an ideal world, these would not be needed as the pupils should be able to learn everything they need within the school day. Where we do have additional learning, it takes place in assembly times. We do have to balance the pupils time with their learning requirements. We don't want to overload them or stress them out!
- We also discussed the fact that many of our pupils learn Arabic afterschool for up to 2 hours so it is quite a long day for them.

6. Parent involvement:

- There are 2x Academy Council vacancies and the school would be going out to election soon.
- We discussed how we could get more parents along to these meetings. Having a more informal meeting was suggested. Kevin said Veronica our artist was working on a mural and he would ask if parents could be involved with that.

7. Positive feedback from Kevin:

- Kevin shared an award that the school had received for 'Listening and Acting on Parental Feedback' This is from the company that runs our parent survey each year. Kevin said the school was particularly proud of this as this is an area we have worked on a lot. Our 'Parental engagement' score was 80% which was 22% higher than the national average.
- Kevin shared things that the school has implemented that came from ideas discussed at Academy Council. These included:
 - i. Sibling photographs
 - ii. A pupil food committee
 - iii. Non-uniform days (e.g. for Jamaican disaster relief this Friday)

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th January at 9.15am