



Headteacher : Dr Simon Letman BA, MA, EdD

Deputy Head : Nicola Shelley

1<sup>st</sup> May 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Parent Forum

As advertised in my letter to you earlier this month, a Parent Forum was held at the Academy on the evening of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Attendance was significantly up on the last meeting held in March, with over forty parents coming along. Once again, those who did attend reported that the evening was very useful and very enjoyable.

The evening began with a presentation from me on how we try to ensure that all students 'achieve' both in terms of their academic progress and attainment and in terms of developing broader life skills to help them deal with the challenges they will face in the future.

We were then treated to some delicious refreshments provided by our caterers, *Caterlink*. 'Taster pots' of the range of meals provided in the school canteen were on offer, together with other tasty snacks and healthy drinks. In fact, this part of the evening proved so popular that it was a struggle to get parents back to the business part of the meeting!

This was followed by a group discussion session where parents were invited to comment on two main topics: '***Trips and Activities***' and '***School Uniform***'.

As with the last Forum, the full list of points raised is now being used by the Senior Leadership team to reflect on our current approaches and our future plans and it will also be used with the Parent Planning Group to guide the content for the next Forum.

For your reference, the detailed responses gave rise to what we might call a set of 'principles' that we will be using to take our thinking on possible changes forward:

### Topic 1: 'Trips and Activities'

#### Ten key principles:

1. There should be a **trips policy**.
2. There should be a comprehensive **calendar** of all trips.
3. Trips should be **sensibly priced and affordable**.
4. There should be an educational trip of some kind for **each Year Group every term**.
5. There should be a **variety** of trips in the overall programme.
6. As far as possible, trips should cover a **number of curriculum areas**.
7. As far as possible, trips should make good use of **local facilities/attractions**.
8. Every child should have the opportunity to go on an **overseas trip** during their first three years at the Academy.

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9. All children who want to go on an advertised trip **should be able to**.
10. There should be '**specialist**' **trips** for students with particular interests, abilities or aptitudes.

## **Topic 2: 'School uniform'**

### **Six key principles:**

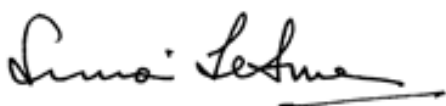
1. The Academy uniform should be **different** to what children wore in primary school.
2. Uniform should be **good quality and affordable**.
3. Uniform should be **unisex**.
4. There should be a **distinctive change** in uniform as children enter KS4.
5. **Non-uniform days** should not be allowed.
6. Uniform rules should be **consistently enforced** by all staff.

I would welcome any comments you might have about these topics. You are able to do this by e-mailing: [parentforum@holbrookacademy.org](mailto:parentforum@holbrookacademy.org) or by sending me a note. Your views will be seen by me and members of the Planning Group. One thing I should stress that in inviting *views* about uniform it should not be assumed that the uniform *will* change. I think it is healthy to keep issues such as this under constant review and, in addition, any thoughts we might have about possible changes would be shared and debated with the parent body well in advance of any changes actually being made.

We plan to hold the last Parent Forum of this academic year in the **Main Hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June between 7:00pm and 8:30pm**. This will be an opportunity for us to review the year and to look ahead to 2015-16. Several reminders will be issued nearer the time.

I do hope you will be able to join us at the next meeting.

Yours sincerely



Dr Simon Letman