

## **Minutes of Chesterton Community College PTA Meeting held on Tuesday 23 October 2012**

Present: Sarah Bolt, Jayne Clough, Martin Crowley (So Mango), Kath Hutchinson, Gill Learmond, Shayne Mitchell, Alison Phillips, Sarah Reakes, Elisabeth von Hippel, Sally Wall, Peter Watts, Natasha Werdmuller, Donna Young, Sonali K.

Apologies: Renata, John Franklin

### Action

- 1 Review of Wine Tasting Event – everyone agreed that it had been a pleasant and successful evening and although numbers were down on last year it made it a more “intimate” atmosphere. Sales were good and final figures to be confirmed by Michael Franklin at next meeting. M Franklin  
12/3/13
  
- 2 So Mango Evening – 23 February 2013 – Farnsworth Hall
  - a) Events licence applied for. Tasha to show to Tina Walker to confirm receipt. Tasha
  - b) Programme for evening:
    - Doors Open 7.30pm
    - Bar session times for rota: 7.30-8.30
    - 8.30-9.30
    - 9.30-10.30

Music via an iPod for interim periods

Martin to forward Band playlist to Tasha Martin

Band performance times: 8.15-9.15/Break/9.30-10.30 Hall has to be vacated by 11.15pm
  - c) Band will arrive at 3pm for set up. Helpers required to unload van.
  - d) Tickets: £5 per ticket/£15 family up to 5 – Maximum of 150 people
  - e) Jayne to set up ticket sales with H Coppin via Parentpay (total 100) and 50 to be available via PTA mail directly from Jayne. Jayne
  - f) Sarah R to update poster for Parentmail and to go round school. Sarah
  - g) Jayne to put together final list of attendees for the door Jayne

### 2 Presentation by Donna Young – Head of English, Media and Drama and Temporary Asst. Head

Donna gave a detailed presentation on the current thinking of Michael Gove to abolish the national curriculum at Key Stage 2 and as Dylan Williams (a member of the expert panel advising Gove) has said that he thinks the abolishment would have to happen at secondary as well as primary levels, this will allow Academies to have a greater freedom in how the students progress is monitored and reported.

Many parents find the current level system showing pupils progression difficult to understand and would like to go back to a simple A,B+,B,C+ etc. grading system. However Williams has written a book on assessment and suggests a matrix system gives better feedback to both pupils, teacher and parents of the pupils current learning level and gives them targets to make further progress.

Please see attached document by Donna Young on moving from levels to Grades at KS3.

Parents were very interested and discussed what information and in what format they need to assess their child's current ability and what they need to do to improve. It was felt that the matrix system would give better feedback and although it would take a while to put the curriculum into a usable matrix system and train staff on its usage, it was felt that once it was up and running it would be quicker and more accurate for staff to use and would allow the pupils and parents a more detailed report structure.

### 3 Presentation by Pete Watts, Assistant Head and PE Teacher

Pete gave a very informative talk on the possibility of Chesterton moving to a vertical tutor group system and introducing a House System. The vertical tutor group system would comprise of more tutor groups with 22 pupils of all year groups in each. It is felt that this would allow the tutor more time for 1:1 with each pupil and would enable them to build up a better working relationship with each pupil. It would allow them to discuss their work and targets in more detail and spend more time with them at key stages of their school life (year 7 settling in/Year 9 – choosing GSCE options/year 11 post GSCE options). This would also lead to more communication with parents about targets and how their child is getting on. Also the older pupils could support the younger pupils with their experience and build stronger cross year communications.

Following his presentation there was much discussion about the pros and cons of the Year 7s being involved in vertical tutoring. Most parents were not happy with the Year 7 group being put into vertical tutor groups as they felt it extremely important that they get the chance to make new friendships with their own age group at their new school and the tutor group offered the best place to build new friendships. Everyone agreed that the transition from year 6 to 7 was handled brilliantly at Chesterton and that their children had all settled in extremely well and smoothly into their new environment and that to change this would cause unnecessary unhappiness all round.

Although some positive points could be seen for having vertical tutor groups for the later years it was also felt that if tutor groups could be made smaller for the vertical tutoring this could be done and keep the year groups as they are.

Following this discussion Pete has taken the parents' thoughts back to the management team and they are revising their plans.

### 5 Funding Requests

Each Faculty was given the opportunity to put forward an equipment request up to the value of £300. Each request was discussed by those present and a vote was taken on whether or not to grant the funding. Some requests need a bit more detail before funding is released but most were happily agreed to. Each faculty who receive funding will be required to give feedback on the items purchased and this will be posted on the PTA website page. Please see attached document for funding requests.

### 6 Tasha thanked Renata for all her hard work in organising the rota and setting up the kitchen for the refreshments at parents' evenings. This was heartily endorsed by Kath Hutchinson on behalf of the staff who said they greatly appreciated this service during the evening. Tasha asked for another helper to come forward to shadow Renata for the rest of the year with a view to taking over from her when she finishes at the end of this school year.

Please contact Tasha via PTA parentmail if you feel you would like to take this role on.

### 7 We still need a Treasurer. This is not a difficult or arduous task. Everything is now set up on a spreadsheet and our requirements are few. We have a few events a year with incomings and outgoings and the monthly prize draw. If you feel you could take this job on please contact Tasha via parentmail.

### 8 Spring Table Top Sale – this will be discussed at the next meeting with a view to holding it later in the Spring term.

### 9 Quiz night – April. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Tasha to contact Mr Erickson to ask if he will organised questions and be quiz master.

Tasha

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the school Resources Centre.

All welcome.