

Notes from the Parental Forum meeting
28th November 2018

An update on Tomlinscote's position within The Prospect Trust

Mr Hylan had visited a number of other schools to see if they wanted to join – primary and secondary. However, some primary schools wanted to remain with only primaries and then The Prospect Trust showed interest in Tomlinscote joining their MAT. This occurred on 1st September 2018. This presently only includes The Sixth Form College, Farnborough but other schools are being encouraged to join. Mr Major highlighted some of the benefits such as creating opportunities for Tomlinscote staff to teach A Levels still and CPD opportunities. The Prospect Trust have been into Tomlinscote and were really encouraged with the Teaching & Learning in the classroom. The Sixth Form College, Farnborough and Tomlinscote have a project based upon memory recall revision strategies that has been adopted successfully at the school with the Year 11 students.

Mr Hylan is leaving at Christmas and Mr Major has agreed to become Interim Principal. It is his intention that this role will continue and he will lead Tomlinscote beyond September. He is looking at some changes in his team to give people opportunities and meet leadership needs.

What happens to vocational courses?

A curriculum review is currently taking place with vocational provision at the school. No answer currently but it is being looked at within a review before Christmas. Tomlinscote believe vocational education is important. However, courses going forward may change. Will there be collegiate courses?

F6F looking at the new T levels. Would Tomlinscote provide some of the facilities?

Natural progression for Year 12 will be to F6F but not the only option.

Already 'A' Levels links but how it will look going forward not sure.

Are there any disadvantages or concerns by joining the Trust?

Support staff are concerned about rationalisation and some teaching staff are also a little worried. Parents and community know what we stand for and it is important that these continue.

Raising Student Achievement

The progress made by our High Prior Attainment boys is an issue and the gap to High Prior Attainment girls is getting worse. Girls make more value added progress in relation to national average whereas boys are in line with the national average. There was discussion by the parents about possible reasons for this such as:

Sitting and studying is more alien for boys, boys don't push themselves. Shorter learning sessions needed. Find a reason not to do it – find a reason to do, curriculum has changed - content heavy. More control at primary so we can help as parents. Introduction of technology – social media, boys more easily distracted.

More practical learning is needed for boys – researching, need to organise themselves better/skills. Need more reward schemes as boys work well, use technology to engage with boys. Where they sit makes a difference – format of seating, Mindful sessions for boys - help them to concentrate sitting still.

Mr Major highlighted some of the strategies introduced this term - separate revision evening, targeted group for revision strategy session, adopt a Year 11 – mentoring 1:1 with particular students, parents' evening for boys' achievement, long term memory retrieval range of strategies for boys, Day Week Month flash card session, teaching boys effective revision strategies. Is there an issue at KS3? No not so much.

Developing Tomlinscote and Community links

The Parental forum discussed this and raised the following points:

Performance of theatre plays from Year 11-7.

Internal community – House route?

House – across all areas.

Volunteering – feeder schools – after school. Old people's homes, nurseries.

Mentoring with children.

Come and use our facilities – holidays. Parking.

Catering evening – catering for OAP.

Parent community needs to be developed.

Social media and marketing.

Open evening – students get involved.

Remembrance Sunday.

All night café in Camberley – volunteer or donations for it.

Shoe box appeal at Xmas.

Engage with Camberley Theatre.

Playing at Camberley Town Centre – music at Christmas.

Freshers' day for sport and clearer who is involved with which sport.

Achievement points need to be visible to create competition.

Pair the years up to train them on how to run an event (Rag Week).

Develop the mentor's role more with their forms.