

Chingford Foundation School Parents' Forum: Saturday 10th December 2016
Portakabin 2 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Mr Hasip Mahir, Senior Executive Principal, welcomed parents to the December Parents' Forum meeting. He explained that there was lots of work going on in school and he would give parents a flavour of this and provide the opportunity for them to ask questions and follow up any matter of particular interest parents wanted to raise.

Mr Mahir said that if you asked the majority of students what they thought of Chingford Foundation School (CFS) they would say that CFS was a good school but for the school to be outstanding this has to be the experience of all students, not the majority. There has been a push to raise standards across the board and student progress has generally gone up. More than ever is being asked of teachers with the school moving to Assessment without Levels (AWL) (where assessment of students' work will be more skills based – with a greater focus on individualised progress rather than progress toward a grade number). From the 2017/2018 academic Year 9s will commence their three year GCSE study programme – Year 8's will choose their GCSE option subjects in March 2017. These strategies have been put in place to meet the increasing demands of the new tougher GCSEs and to give students a longer 'lead in' to the actual examinations.

The government's recently published Raise-on-Line document, which RAG rates schools subject by subject (Green good, white satisfactory and blue needs attention). The document showed that CFS was green in a substantial number of subjects. It also showed that student are performing well in the Ebacc subjects and the school is in a healthy position, with it being placed in the top 5% of schools in the country for Modern Foreign Languages. This has resulted in CFS achieving a record number of first preference choices from parents in October 2016 – with 335 applying for the 240 places on offer.

Mr Mahir said that in the next few weeks parents would be receiving their children's progress reports and he would be interested in their feedback on the new reporting system in place for Year 7s and 9 students (other year groups will have a mix of grades and AWL comments).

To achieve these results the school has various interventions in place – we run homework clubs, before and after school, for Year 11 students experiencing difficulty in particular subjects they receive additional support. This academic drive is coupled with the school's connection with the community, for instance, Year 10 organised, hosted and catered for the Senior Citizens Party last Thursday. This event happens on an annual basis with Year 10 students facilitating the event.

Positive referrals have gone up – we know this because the school's Ethos and Behaviour Assistant Vice Principal produces a half termly report which he presents to Leadership for analysis. 'Hand-in-Hand' with recognition of achievement and effort is the school's zero tolerance of poor behaviour and the requirement for students to abide by the Code of Conduct which covers all school life from the need to complete homework on time, to the requirement to be on time for school and to lessons. He explained that CFS behaviour system is one of the reasons parents are keen for their children to attend the school. While parents generally agreed with this sentiment, one parent cautioned that a quiet class did not necessarily mean one where good learning was happening – the teachers and students need to strike a workable balance.

A number of parents raised the matter of low level disruption in their children's classrooms which children have reported is hindering their learning. Mr Mahir asked if this was in particular subject areas and parents said that their children have spoken of this happening in Science. Mr Mahir undertook to speak to the Head of Faculty about this.

A parent said that parents need to get more involved, to be proactive. He explained that had an issue with his son's education he can into school and spoke to the teacher concerned and the matter was sorted out.

Mr Mahir explained that the school has put a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bid to the Educational Funding Agency for £4M to support the school's plans to build an expanded Sixth Form on site. Successful bidders will be informed in February 2017.

Mr Mahir went on to speak about the Pre-Public Examinations (PPE) (formerly known as Mock Examinations) that will be held for Year 11 students in the week commencing 2nd January 2017. One parent was unaware that the PPE examinations were happening and Mr Mahir undertook to have the timetable reissued to Year 11 parents via ParentMail week commencing 12th December 2016.

Mr Mahir then addressed some of the questions that had come up at October's Parents Forum meeting

- Later school opening is currently being investigated
- Students unfortunately cannot access WiFi
- Trips continue to be popular – Sking trip after Christmas, Battlefield trip early part of the year, summer camp and curriculum related theatres
- Extra servery points in the Refectory have speeded up service to students
- 'Careers' interviews will take place as part of 'Drop Down Day' activities – **Mr Mahir agreed to arrange for activities and dates for Drop Down Days to be uploaded to the school's website**
- Mr Mahir confirmed that the school no longer organises Work Experience time for Year 11 students

Mr Mahir thanked parents for attending today's meeting and looked forward to seeing them at the **next Parents' Forum meeting on 25th March 2017**