

**Five Rivers MAT – Parents’ Forum
Tinsley 13/11/19**

Present: 10 family members / parents

Becky Webb (CEO)
Emma Farmer (Director)
Tania Macpherson (Deputy Head, Tinsley)

1	<p>Welcome Mrs Webb introduced the team and welcomed all to the academy Parents’ Forum.</p>	
2	<p>Information from the school Mrs Macpherson confirmed that there had been a lot of positive feedback following International Day.</p> <p>Mrs Sanderson would be producing a ‘Friday Flyer’ which would go out to all parents on Twitter, Facebook and on the school’s website. Parents were asked to look out for this.</p> <p>Parents were also asked to follow the school on Twitter if they didn’t already.</p>	
3	<p>Parents’ Questions Mrs Webb confirmed that there was no set agenda for the meeting. Instead, parents were invited to raise questions or topics for discussion according to their own interests.</p>	
3a	<p>Support for Parents One parent said that she would very much value some assistance and support in order to better help her child at home with subjects. It was noted that the new standards had meant that teachers had also needed to receive comprehensive training in order to effectively teach the new curriculum.</p> <p>Mrs Macpherson said that the school would shortly be posting online the school’s methods for teaching new skills e.g. maths. This would support parents to help their children with homework. There would also be opportunities for parents to observe some lessons to help improve their knowledge of new subjects.</p> <p>‘How to’ videos would also be prepared for parents.</p>	



	<p>Knowledge organisers would be shared with all parents from Year One upwards to help parents identify what their children are learning.</p> <p>One parent said that she was very surprised to see the high standard of work in her child’s book. She said that she has seen a real difference and believes her child’s success is a result of the teachers’ hard work and highly effective teaching strategies.</p> <p>Another parent said that her child is in Reception and feels that the school is really helping to develop her child’s phonics skills. She said that she thinks Mr Yates is excellent and thanked the school and the trust for having such high standards for the children.</p>	
<p>3b</p>	<p>Homework</p> <p>One parent said she felt that there was too much homework (five pieces per week) for her child.</p> <p>Mrs Macpherson confirmed that homework is reviewed regularly and that more work is needed outside of school now that the age related expectations had been raised nationally. However, there were homework clubs which children could attend in which they can complete it. Parents were encouraged to access these if they needed further support.</p>	
<p>3c</p>	<p>Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)</p> <p>A parent asked about the progress with the plans for the new SRE agenda.</p> <p>Mrs Webb confirmed that a working group had met for the first time to begin looking at a draft scheme of work. The group included staff members from the Muslim community and there were links with the local Imam. The group were initially tasked with looking at what we ‘have’ to cover by law and the next step would be to draw in the views of parents on how we do this.</p> <p>Mrs Webb reemphasised the fact that the teaching of relationships education is mandatory but that our approach to this would be very much age appropriate and would focus primarily on family make-up. Mrs Webb explained that we need all of our children to thrive in modern Britain and we want to build their understanding of lives and beliefs that may differ to their own. Mrs Webb expressed that this understanding can help to strengthen the power of their own faith whilst acknowledging the differences that exist in the country in which they live, without prejudice.</p>	



	<p>It was noted that the draft scheme of work would be shared with parents in the Spring time.</p> <p>Mrs Webb also explained that we are now reviewing our terminology when writing to families. Historically we have addressed letters to 'Parents and Carers'. However we know that where a child has lost their parents this causes a great deal of upset. Instead of this going forward we will address letters to the family of the child.</p>	
4	<p>Any Other Business There were no further items of discussion.</p>	
5	<p>Date and time of next Parents' Forum</p> <p>Mrs Webb confirmed that parents' coffee mornings would be running routinely and would be led by Mrs Sanderson / Mrs Macpherson. However, the next Trust Parents' Forum would take place on Weds 18 March 2020 at 08:30am.</p>	