



St Martin's Parent Partnership

St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

Notes from meeting 31st January 2017

Parent representatives

Mrs Bliss Phillips-Brown

Mrs Donna Akodu

Ms Abigail Scott

Ms Sarah Wilson

Ms Michelle Nicholas

Mr Vivian Brown

Mr Abdul Akodu

Miss Elizabeth Plummy

Ms Babarinde

Ms. Maxine Huggins

Mrs Lyn Bailey-Taylor

Miss Marcia Johnson

Mrs Kerry Brown

Ms. Shyemairra Nicholas

School representatives

Beverley Stanislaus

Suganthy Wilson

Andrew Mubeezi

The meeting opened with a Prayer and welcome from the Headteacher and with thanks to Donna Akodu for championing the parent partnership.

Parents in attendance agreed that at this point we should start with as an informal group.

Agenda items were discussed, this first meeting was to kick start the parent partnership.

Discussed the ways we could keep parents in this group informed and also the wider school community of parents. A small whatsapp group has already begun. Donna suggested that we should cover a range of ways to communicate for those families so that it is accessible to all. Text, website, parentmail, whatsapp facebook page. **Donna to investigate.**

Parents were agreeable for their photo to be used to promote the parent partnership on the website.

Discussed briefly school improvement and the school improvement plan in light of Government funding cuts. A summary of the plan will go onto the school website. School to ensure that standards are not impacted by cuts. Recent refurbishments were completed on the school as a result of bids to the EFA.

Parents were happy to look at fundraising activities and suggested having a target figure and what the money would be used for. The school classrooms are in need of updating and this could be a fundraising activity. All contributors could have their name on a plaque in the classroom.

Discussed safety and road safety. The school explained that there are members of SLT and Progress Leaders at the gate, shop and bus stop. The Community Police Officer works with the school but has a Lambeth wide focus and cannot just be based with St Martin's. The year 7 and 8 recently had a Road Safety event and the school ensures that students cross the road at the islands. They are reminded in tutor time and assembly.

A suggestion by the parent partnership was for a Zebra crossing petition to be started maybe by parents. The school said they would be grateful for this as we have been turned down as it would be too close to the existing crossing. The school was informed that the new 20 mile should see an improvement. We informed the parents that this was not the case.

Parent team to make contact with City Heights and primary team PTAs. Make link with local MP to raise profile of issues outside school. Kerry to call Lambeth to obtain an update on their plans to slow down traffic and put up larger signs. **Kerry to investigate.**

The group discussed ideas to engage students in extracurricular activities. There was a discussion on debating and organising debating events. Michelle commented on how engaged her daughter was in the BREXIT events that took place in the school and how it engaged students in politics and discussion. Shyemairra talked to the group about her perception of young people and the school now as a student who left a few years ago. She talked about more engagement and ambition wanted to get involved in more and also developing leadership skills. Vivian commented on the importance of debating and looking at how to have regular debates in school. This was something that the school was interested in pursuing. The school informed that we had school council and had a year 7 debating club at lunchtime that could be developed and introduced for the other year groups.

The group discussed possible ways of fundraising. Donna explained 'Easy Funding' and this could be investigated further. Lots of schools have signed up to it. Purchases are made from shops that are signed up to 'Easy funding' and the school would get a percentage. Donna to look into this further and report back. **Donna to investigate.** Abigail asked if we were connected with any big companies eg Tesco/Sainsbury. Abdul suggested having a target for fundraising and getting in touch with companies and shops that might offer support. The Headteacher said that the school had approached the Coop but they do not donate to school they are linked to charities such as the homeless. Students did carol singing free of charge outside coop at Christmas. Abdul would investigate possible links with supermarkets. **Abdul to investigate.** Kerry suggested that we could look into bag packing at Asda to fund raise. Help to build confidence and people skills. This is something that **the school will investigate.**

We discussed how we could get the parent partnership group involved in an event soon. We talked about the DISCO that had to be cancelled because of a lack of interest. Donna suggested having disco Champions and open it up to Year 9. Vivian also suggested not calling it DISCO and letting the students design the posters and theme. It was agreed that we would look at a date before or after Easter and getting students on board to organise this. The event would be open to year 7, 8 and 9 and the parent partnership would support the event. Timings would be the same 6.30pm to 8.00pm. **The school will organise a group of students to follow this up.**

The parent partnership group would consider ideas for events such as an international evening. The summer Shakespeare festival was a great success and the school was looking to have another outdoor event this year. The theme to be decided. **The parent partnership group were happy to support a summer event.**

Date and time of the next meeting to be agreed.

Summary of outcomes to follow up by parent partnership

1. Easy funding
2. Support from corporate companies to donate funds to school for a particular project
3. Zebra crossing outside the school
4. Investigate methods of communication

Summary of outcomes to follow up by school

1. Bag packing at certain times of the year – get in touch with large supermarkets
2. Organise the date and students to lead on year 7, 8, 9 disco with new name!
3. Follow up with any parent partnership outcomes before the next meeting
4. Investigate a school face book
5. Agree a time and date for next meeting, liaise with Donna