

PARENTS' PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Thursday 5 October 2017 at 6.15 p.m. in the **Admin Suite**.

Minutes

1. Apologies-

Diane Chilvers, Rosie Barrack, Rachel Riches

2. Introductions –

Introductions were made.

3. Main item: MFL- Dinorah Souto (Head of Spanish)

DS spoke about MFL at Copleston including: the importance of teaching the culture along with the language, the employability of students with languages, option system and progression from year 8 into GCSE, support for students' speaking skills from native speakers, progression and deepening of knowledge through the key stages, excellent results achieved by Languages.

Qu- How do you support students who are shy about speaking?

DS- Uses herself as an example, build up confidence with pair and small group work.

Qu- Who decided that taking a language is not compulsory?

DS- Ultimately the government, however at Copleston, students with talent in languages are encouraged to take them.

Qu- Is there a gender divide in languages take up?

DS- Yes, some groups tend to be girl heavy. This is a national trend. However, languages have achieved success before with boys, especially at A-level.

Qu- Is the French set up the same as Spanish?

DS- Yes.

Qu- Are there opportunities for trips and exchanges?

DS- Tries to promote an exchange every year- linked to a school in Spain, but has struggled to get numbers recently.

Qu- Can you pick two languages?

DS- Usually one, but students who want to do both are given lunchtime support sessions in year 8 to catch up.

All thank DS for her time.

4. Bouquets

Sail France trip, Year 7 transition team, AA for timetables- all to be passed on for the staff bulletin

5. Upcoming items/any other business

SH to prepare a map of suggested areas the group may want to look at/hear from in future meetings.

Would like more information on the formation of the MAT. SH will try to arrange a speaker.

Group are happy to give feedback on school ideas and policies. All are happy with start to academic year. Some concern about possible fights at lunchtime, SH reassures group, but will pass on to duty co-ordinator.

AOB-

Can school photo background be updated/modified? May encourage more parents to buy?

Transport problems and blockages for Sail France trip departure.

Parent mail- clearer guidance on what to do if you cannot download the app? SH to pass on to relevant staff.

6. Date of next meeting: Thursday 16 November 2017

All happy with date of next meeting. In future could look to change days from Thursday as clashes with other events, e.g. primary school events.

Future Meetings:

Thursday 25 January 2018

Thursday 15 March 2018

Thursday 3 May 2018

Thursday 21 June 2018