



NEWHAM COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

STUDENT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Notes of the meeting held on 11 May 2016

Present:

Students: 20 students attended.

Governors: Andrew Edwards Governor (Chaired forum on behalf of LJ)
Di Gowland Principal

Staff: Beryl Hughes Interim Clerk to the Corporation
 Annette Cast Deputy Principal – PQI
 Anil Nagpal Deputy Principal Finance & Infrastructure
 Simeon Gibbons Registrar
 Liam Davis Student & Staff Liaison Officer
 Steve Parry Head of IT
 Olivia Besly Head of HR & Legal Services
 Mary Herbert Vice Principal Curriculum
 Angelina Ikeako Student support

Apologies: Linda Jordan - Chair

1. Introduction

AE told the forum the Chair, LJ, sent apologies that she had been delayed.

AE welcomed the attendees and all the staff and governors present introduced themselves. Chair explained that the purpose of this forum was to discuss issues of common interest as well as general concerns and that the meeting served as a direct line to the governors and the College management.

As there was an open agenda for the meeting, AE invited students to talk about issues that they wanted to bring to the attention of senior staff and Governors.

2. Matters arising

- There were no matters arising from the previous notes.

3. Ofsted

- The Principal opened the meeting by sharing with students that the positive report from Ofsted should be received in three to four weeks and would be shared with students via My Day.

- The Principal also told students the Inspectors were very impressed with the conversations they had with students

4. Issues by students

i. Funding arrangements were queried

- A student was concerned that funding was being cut for 16 plus students
- There were also queries about funding progression courses

Response:

- It was explained that 16-18 funding is protected
- Over 18s studying a second level 3 will need to apply for loans but will only start repaying the earning £21,000 plus.
- Interest will be payable on the loans.
- Students were reminded that learner support fund is available if students are experiencing financial problems and everyone was encouraged to apply for this funding if needed.
- Learner support fund application forms will be put on line for the next academic year to make it easier for students to access the funding.

ii. Query on level 2 Business course

- Student said he had completed the level 1 business course and wanted to progress to level 2 for 19 plus but was told the course was not running.
- He is taking office professional Level 2 instead.

Response:

- The level 2 Business course was not offered as there were insufficient numbers.

iii. WI-FI – compliment

- Students were unanimous with praise for the improvement in Wi-Fi

Response:

- An extra 20 access points have been installed.#
- The Wi-Fi router manufacturer is Samsung

iv. REGISTERS

- Travel and Tourism level 2 students had queries on registers and attendance
- Music production classes and group tutorials were timetabled to be detrimental to registered attendance.

Response:

- The Heads of school will be asked to check where there may be inconsistencies.

v. ENRICHMENT

- Students said they did not want to do enrichment because it did not interest them but were told it affects their attendance if they do not attend.

Response:

- Non attendance of enrichment does not affect attendance record
- A focus group will be set up by AU to look at a broader offer.
- Consider enrichment activities relevant to a student's course.
- Publicise activities more widely.
- Several ideas to promote activities were suggested including
 - New Day
 - What's Ap

- Social media
- Notice Boards
- Group tutorials
- Rotating information on the opening screen of PCs

vi. THE EU REFERENDUM

- AE asked if 18 plus students had registered to vote

Response:

- Students said they had welcomed the work done by LD in publicising the referendum.
- Noted the last date for registration is 7 June
- There is a display at the rear of i-Learning on the election
- If the UK leaves the EU it will not affect funding in the immediate future although the future implications of leave the EU would need to be modelled
- EU Funding has just been secured to continue the work experience for students in Europe on courses including :
 - Travel and Tourism
 - Early years
 - Health and Social Care
 - Business

vii FREE BREAKFAST – COMPLIMENT

- Students said breakfast was good and that encouraged others to say they were going to try. They did not realise there was a selection.

Students were reassured that their queries and complaints were taken very seriously and followed up by the relevant departments.

Students are kept up to date with information by text, email and notice boards and it is essential that students keep their contact details up to date.

The Chair was impressed by the high attendance and would like to see the number of attendees to continue to grow.

The Chair thanked the students for their questions and comments and encouraged them to raise day-to-day issues or concerns with their faculty managers or through the official customer complaints system.

**4. Date of the next meeting
3 November 2016 Stratford Campus**