**Family Learning and Engagement Background**

Family Learning has continued to be a major aspect of our work in relation to PEF. In session 2018-2019, we have continued to focus on two main strands of Family Learning. Our targeted ‘Parents in Partnership’ Programme (PIP) engaging with a further 6 parents to add to our original cohort and a Universal programme of events offering support to all families within our community.

The aim of the Parents in Partnership Programme was focused on developing parents/carers confidence and comfort levels in approach and engaging with the school and empowering them to support their child(ren) at home with their learning. The continuation of this programme allowed our existing parents to further develop links with the school, completing various qualifications and gaining confidence in leadership and volunteering through continued opportunities in these areas. The original group have been joined by our second PIP group who, once completing the initial 6 week programme, also wanted to continue to engage with the school and found the entire experience ‘life changing’.

The PIP involved a pre-existing design that monitored impact. This was primarily through pre- and post-intervention questionnaires, aligned to the aims of the programme. The programme evaluations also made extensive use of ‘impact statements’ to capture qualitative evidence of their impact.

Strengths

* As a result of the Parents In Partnership Programme our targeted cohort of parents/carers are increasingly more confident in engaging with the school and supporting their child(ren). Moreover, the PIP programme has developed participants’ leadership skills and they have increasingly taken forward initiatives and activities within and beyond the school. This includes parents completing SQA Volunteering qualifications, National 5 awards in Literacy and Numeracy, Barista customer service training, coffee mornings for staff, continuing to support each other as a group and, most importantly, being positive role models for their young person. The chart below shows the impact of the programme on this 2 year group:

Staff have continued to positively engage with the Parents in Partnership Programme and have highlighted that it has been beneficial in terms of developing their own professional knowledge and job-satisfaction. Staff are increasingly offering their support to work with the PIP group and have been a fundamental part of it’s success.

*“It was a pleasure to work with the parents as part of Family Learning. The parents were enthusiastic and eager to learn about what happens in the English classroom and Literacy across the whole school, which meant we were able to accomplish the goals of all parents achieving National 5 Literacy qualifications.*

*The time constraints were tight - the writing element of the literacy course was introduced in class but parents had to complete the rest at home. I was able to give a brief overview of literacy but the majority of the time was given to assessments. While this was one the main aims of the programme, I could have offered more breadth and depth in terms of literacy if given more time - over 8 or 10 weeks for example.*

*It was satisfying to see the parents improve in confidence over the weeks and I was very pleased with their positive feedback. I would be eager to be involved with this again next year.”*

English Department

*“I love this group. It has been great to have a taste of what the kids are doing and getting to know members of staff better. I wouldn’t be doing my college course if it wasn’t for the group as it has given me so much more confidence*.”

*“Parents in Partnership has been excellent to participate in and has inspired me on my journey to where I am today. Without the guidance, support and non-judgemental attitude of the staff to listen, guide and direct me in my own life and also my children’s education, I would have really struggled. It has changed my life.”*

*“The Parents in Partnership programme has been a great experience and I’m really enjoying it. It has been a wonderful opportunity for families to be part of their children’s high school journey.”*

*“This programme has broken down barriers that I had before my son started at the Academy. I now know who to approach if I have any concerns and find the school extremely supportive, encouraging and inclusive.”*

The Principal Teacher of Family Learning has a very clear idea of how to continue to develop the work of the Parents in Partnership Programme and also to develop of universal programme of events tailored to meet to needs of our families.

In line with the school’s priorities to develop Home Learning, the Principal Teacher of Family Learning is looking to develop the use of departmental homework tutorials which will be available on the school website for families to access from home. Also, as a school, we are looking at developing our own ‘Swap Shop’ to allow families to access school clothing, PE kits and hygiene products in a discreet and anonymous fashion.