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12 November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

RE: Northern Ambition Parent and Carer Forum

In my last communication to you on 24th September, I brought to your attention the formation of a parent/carers forum for our family of schools. I am delighted to now be in a position to offer you more information about this.

Overview

Northern Ambition Academies Trust is committed to encouraging more parents and carers to get involved in school life. Our Parent and Carer forum will seek to do this and will be an informal group where parents and carers can raise issues, be consulted on trust policy and give their views. The members of the forum will have an important role to play in school improvement by ensuring that the parental perspective is represented and taken into account.

What will the forum do?

The Parent/Carer forum will help to create an environment where all parents and carers know that their views matter, and where they feel confident and comfortable putting them forward. They will effectively work on behalf of all parents/carers to discuss educational matters that are of importance to all.

As a member of the forum, you will:

- Work in partnership with the trust to decide on the key priorities to take forward;
- Provide a voice for parents and carers in the schools and in their community on issues that are important to them;
- Help improve the trust's understanding of how to engage parents and carers in their children's learning and in the life of the trust;
- Support the trust to further develop strong home/school partnerships;
- Communicate regularly with the CEO, Academy Councils and Trust Board to both hear their views and keep them informed;
- Support improvement by discussing the trust's strengths and areas for development from a parental perspective;
- Help make links with the wider community;
- Capture the unique and varied skills, interests, knowledge and experience that parents and carers can offer.

What the forum will not do?

The forum will not be a way for parents and carers to:

- Raise complaints about a particular school. This should be done through the correct channels;
- Vent their anger at staff or each other about incidents personal to them;

- Become involved in individual matters relating to children or staff in a school.

If you are interested in finding out more about joining our forum or would like an expression of interest form, please contact IParkinson@northernambition.org.uk by 26th November. My aim is to have the forum up and running after Christmas.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Fairhurst'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E' and 'F'.

Elizabeth Fairhurst
CEO
Northern Ambition Academies Trust