

7<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

## Parent Forum minutes and important dates for your diary

### Parent Forum

Following a very positive and constructive meeting of the Parent Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, I would like to say a huge thank you to parents/carers for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend. Please find attached the minutes of the meeting for your attention. We will also publish them on the **Parent Forum** section of the website.

The next meeting date is Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. If you have any suggested agenda items, please send them through to [parents@gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk](mailto:parents@gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk) by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018. We will of course send you reminder text messages closer to the date and a copy of the agenda in advance of the meeting.

We are excited about working with you to develop the Parent Forum and thank you for your continued support.

### Important dates for your diary

During the Parent Forum meeting, parents/carers requested that the academy give as much notice as possible when circulating meeting dates. We will ensure we make every effort to do this, so please see the dates on the following page and make a note in your diaries. Please also visit our website for the 2018/2019 term dates: [www.gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk/term-dates](http://www.gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk/term-dates)

Please note that **any student** sitting exams on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June **will need to come in.**

We will write to you again shortly with details of our ninth Summer of Arts, Culture and Learning Festival (SoLFest) and the academy's end of term arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Ms Jennie Montgomerie  
**Acting Head of School**

Enclosed: Parent Forum minutes  
Building Resilience Programme – Parent/Carer Information Sheet

Cont/2...

## Green Spring Academy Shoreditch

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## Important dates for your diary

Date	Time	Description	Details/Notes
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	All day	Eid Al Fitr	The academy will be closed to students <b>not taking exams.</b>
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	8.30am-9.30am	Parent/Carer coffee drop-in session	Opportunity for parents/carers to meet Mrs Ruth Holden, Executive Principal.
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	5.00pm	Parent/Carer training workshop	Come and join us at the Building Resilience Programme, a training workshop for parents/carers to help build resilience in children. <b>Please see attached for more details. Spaces are limited so book your place today.</b>
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	9.15am-10.30am	Parent advice surgery	Opportunity to book a one-to-one meeting with an SLT colleague to discuss any matters you wish to raise. <b>We will circulate booking details in due course.</b>
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	5.00pm	Parent Forum meeting	Please send suggested agenda items to <b>parents@gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk</b> by Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2018.

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parent Forum

Held at Green Spring Academy Shoreditch, Gosset Street, London E2 6NW  
on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 5.00pm

### **PRESENT**

**Parent/carer representatives:** 17

**Academy representatives:** Ms Julie Cordice, *Director of Marketing, Communications & External Affairs*  
Ms Claudia Gwinnutt, *Chair of the Local Advisory Body (LAB)*  
Ms Jennie Montgomerie, *Acting Head of School*  
Ms Ruth Sacks, *Trustee*  
Ms Angela Wallace, *Assistant Vice Principal*

**Note Taker:** Fateha Zanat, *Admin Officer*

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### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Ms Montgomerie welcomed parents/carers to the first meeting of the newly formed Parent Forum, introduced the agenda and explained that questions can be taken after each item.

### **2. Parent Forum Terms of Reference**

Ms Cordice discussed the purpose of the Terms of Reference document and explained that the Parent Forum was an additional opportunity for GSAS parents/carers to come together. Ms Cordice also informed parents/carers that the:

- ❖ Parent Forum meetings will take place three times a year (once a term)
- ❖ Parents/carers can suggest agenda items going forward
- ❖ Parent Forum agenda and notes will be published on the academy website

### **3. Appointment of Executive Principal for GSAS**

Academy representatives discussed the appointment of Mrs Ruth Holden, Executive Principal, who is joining the academy from September 2018. As part of her induction programme, Mrs Holden will be visiting the academy on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018, as well as other dates. There will be the opportunity for parents/carers to attend a morning drop in session to meet Mrs Holden. We will share further details with parents/carers in due course.

The Local Advisory Body and Trustees will also formally meet with Mrs Holden in July 2018.

**3a) Parent/carer question: How can the new Principal progress the academy and how will the academy maintain standards?**

*Academy response – Mrs Holden will be building on the solid foundations of the academy. She is very excited about the community we have at Green Spring Academy Shoreditch and her focus will be on maintaining the academy's high standards and ensuring we are an 'Outstanding' academy.*

**3b) Parent/carer question: Will we expect any more changes once Mrs Holden joins the academy, for example the curriculum?**

*Academy response – Apart from joining the Mulberry Schools Trust, no further changes are planned. We have recently introduced a new curriculum model at GSAS. We have even shared our best practice with Mulberry School for Girls who have now adopted the same model for their curriculum. There will be some small changes to branding and uniform associated with the name change, but we will keep parents/carers informed throughout.*

**4. Update on plans to join Mulberry Schools Trust (MST)**

Ms Cordice explained the academy is to fund a new blazer, tie and jumper for students who will be in Years 8, 9 and 10 in September 2018.

Ms Sacks discussed the changes to the current Local Advisory Body (LAB) structure as a result of the academy's transfer to MST. From 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, the current LAB will cease to exist and a new Local Governing Body (LGB) will be formed from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. To ensure continuity, Ms Jane Earl and Mr David Gracie, both currently Trustees on the Board of Green Spring Education Trust, will become Trustees on the Board of Mulberry Schools Trust. Mr Gracie will also Co-Chair the newly formed LGB, sharing the role with Ms Gwinnutt from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

The new Local Governing Body will have more influence and involvement than the previous Local Advisory Body.

There will also be an opportunity for two parents/carers and one staff member to join the Local Governing Body. The academy will hold elections in the autumn term.

Ms Gwinnutt agreed to share her academy email upon request to parents/carers so she can respond to queries/concerns directly.

**4a) Parent/carer question: How will the academy ensure clear communication across all bodies involved in the academy?**

*Academy response – As Mr Gracie and Ms Gwinnutt will become Co-Chairs of the new LGB, this will enable parent/carers to have direct links with the Board of Trustees of the Mulberry Schools Trust. Mr Gracie's role as MST Trustee and Co-Chair of the LGB provides an important channel between the two groups. Academy representatives explained that the LGB has an important role to play in the governance structure and they are there to represent the views of the academy community, including parents/carers. The parents/carers at this meeting may wish to consider being elected for a position on the LGB in September. Further information will be circulated about this in due course.*

## 5. Event during Summer of Arts, Culture and Learning Festival (SoLFest): Resilience training for parents/carers

Ms Wallace discussed the Transition Programme for Year 6 and mentioned the academy's flagship event *Shakespeare Day*. The chosen play this year is *Romeo and Juliet* and current students will be performing to Year 6 students and the wider academy community.

The following activities are also scheduled to take place during SoLFest:

- ❖ A music concert
- ❖ Trips
- ❖ Sports day
- ❖ Maths challenge

We will publish further details of all SoLFest activities on the academy website.

This year, we have a special event for parents/carers. Ms Wallace shared an information sheet providing details about a training workshop focused on resilience, which the academy plans to host. The event is free of charge. Parents/carers were asked to indicate their preferred time on the evaluation sheets in their packs.

## 6. Parent surgeries pilot – future termly sessions

Ms Wallace explained the introduction of a new parent/carer advice surgery, which we will trial in the Autumn Term. They will be similar to MP surgeries, and the academy hopes that this will give parents/carers an opportunity to book an appointment in advance with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). SLT can then directly address any issues parents/carers may have.

## 7. Next meeting and suggesting future agenda items

Ms Cordice informed parents/carers that the next meeting is due to take place in the autumn term. Parents/carers agreed at this meeting that the Parent Forum start time should be set to 5.00pm going forward. We will notify parents/carers with the details of the next meeting date as soon as possible.

## 8. AOB

### 8a) Parent/carer question: When will the 2018/2019 term dates be updated on the academy website?

*Academy response – We have recently agreed the 2018/2019 term dates and they will be published on the academy website on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018.*

### 8b) Parent/carer question: Can we be notified via email with regards to updates with the academy?

*Academy response – We are always open to new ideas and suggestions from parents/carers. Ms Cordice will look into the suggestions given.*

**8c) Parent/carer question: Can parents/carers be notified in good time of any meetings/Parents' Evenings etc. to allow for any commitments we may have.**

*Academy response – We will make every effort to provide parents/carers with as much notice as possible when arranging meetings/Parents' Evenings.*

The meeting closed at 6.05pm.

## Building Resilience Programme Parent/Carer Workshop Information Sheet

Working alongside the Kaizen Partnership, the Parent Forum is excited to offer an invitation to our parents/carers to attend an innovative training workshop. The aim of the workshop is to help build resilience in our young people. According to Public Health England:

*“building resilience can increase achievements of pupils; to support them through transitions and encourage healthy behaviours; to promote better interpersonal relationships between people – particularly parents or carers and children; and create more supportive, cohesive schools that support both pupils and the wider community.”<sup>1</sup>*

### What is the Building Resilience Programme?

It is a series of workshops for children, young people, parents/carers and school staff to positively impact young people’s wellbeing and mental health.

### What will the workshop be about?

This particular workshop will provide parents/carers with some of the skills and techniques required to build resilience in their children. The workshop will bring awareness of mental health issues and it will provide information and signposting to materials offering further support.

### Who is running the programme?

The programme is a partnership project between the Kaizen Partnership and Poplar HARCA. Kaizen specialise in running innovative training projects and will deliver the programme. They have lots of experience working with parents/carers, students and staff from over 350 schools. For further information about Kaizen, please visit [www.wearekaizen.co.uk](http://www.wearekaizen.co.uk).

### Do I have to pay for the programme?

No. The training is free and funded by Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group.

### When and where will the training take place?

The training will be part of the academy’s ninth Summer of Arts, Culture and Learning Festival (SoLFest) and will take place at the academy on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 5.00pm.

### How do I book a place?

Parents/carers can email [parents@gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk](mailto:parents@gsacademyshoreditch.org.uk) or call 020 7920 7900.

Please note that places are limited and will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.



The ninth  
Summer of Arts,  
Culture and  
Learning Festival



<sup>1</sup> Local action on health inequalities: Building children and young people’s resilience in schools, 2014