

## **SEN PARENTS AND CARERS GROUP**

- Becky Dawson introduced herself, Caron Kendall (SEND Governor) Kerry Day (Teaching Assistant) and Annabelle from the Parent Support Group. Briefly outlined the make up of the SEN team – SENCo, Deputy SENCo and teaching assistants.
- BD outlined her aims for the group –
  - To work with parents and carers to develop SEN provision
  - To create a network for parents and carers
  - To access information and support from experts and outside agencies
  - Clarified that this isn't the best opportunity to air specific concerns and that BD is available on all parents evenings for 1 to 1 meetings or arrangements can be made through LS team  
[mdavis@harlington.org](mailto:mdavis@harlington.org)
- Members of the group discussed what they felt was important about SEN provision i.e. what happens for students with SEN.
  - Individual support not one size fits all provision. Personalised to the needs of the individual
  - Positivity – not just focussing on what they can't do – trying to make it interesting and engaging
  - Regular monitoring – is it working, do changes need to be made.
- BD went through feedback from Parents Survey of March 2016. Each question was looked at and discussed. Points made were:
  - It was encouraging that 25 people had completed the questionnaire
  - Where there was dissent in amounted to between 4 and 6 people
  - Communication came up as an issue although some people also commented on the fact that it was excellent.

- BD asked how we could improve communication – it was raised that some parents/carers may find contacting and meeting in school intimidating or struggle for time. Considered that a change of the name of this group from Forum to Group may make it seem more accessible.
- Group call a text for important dates which may be easier for parents/carers or a telephone call to make an invitation more personal
- Parents felt that it was essential that they are proactive in contacting the school as well, and taking up opportunities offered to meet and discuss support in place.
- BD asked what parents wanted from the group – any specific topics to cover, experts to get in etc
  - ‘How to Support Without Nagging!’ – strategies for home – getting ready in the morning, remembering homework etc
  - Promoting Organisation and independence
  - Grades 1-9 and what does it mean?
  - Support for Revision and Study Skills
- BD asked how we could further promote the group
  - Promote through middle schools to encourage Year 8 parents to attend to also support transition
  - Use groupcall to remind parents
  - Send an email to all parents with a flyer
  - Members of the group to share a positive experience this evening and encourage others to attend as well.