

Starting School/Moving On Session Case Study

Charlton School Science College, Wellington, Telford and Wrekin

Charlton School is an 11-16 mixed comprehensive school serving the local community of Wellington and surrounding rural villages. The school secured Science College status in 2005.

The Head Teacher said;

‘Students are very involved in the working of the school. All tutor groups have two senior student leaders attached to them to provide leadership and peer mentoring for younger students. Attached student leaders visit tutor groups once a week to assist the work of Form Tutors. Student leaders also act as prefects and hold positions of responsibility involving them in membership of the Student Council. ‘

The school has developed a house system which divides the school into 4 mini schools that each holds House Council Meetings. Houses are supported by non-teaching House Managers, who are available for student and family support throughout the day. Assistant Head teachers provide senior leadership team by working together to support the house system monitoring and tracking the progress of learning throughout all year groups. A learning development unit staffed by a specialist team trained in special educational needs supports the learning of students needing additional provision.

Planning

Telford and Wrekin have developed a multi-agency core TIS/ Starting School/Moving On team to oversee the implementation of the project. Each member of the team has been allocated a number of schools to support through the planning and delivery of the sessions, in Charlton School the TIS facilitator worked closely with the schools extended services manager to design the content of the session.

Although the school has created an accessible and open environment for parents this is the first time that an event for parents has included such a variety of activities for parents of children in year seven.

The Event

The event took place on a week day evening between 7.00-10.00 pm; older students welcomed parents into the hall and refreshments were made available. A staffed DVD room was made available for year 7 students and their siblings. Choices of workshops were offered to parents including ICT, and what to do if you need advice or support. This workshop explored with parents who was available to provide a range of support services to them in the community. A House Manager explained to parents the Common Assessment Framework process and how it could help them access a service that they may need. The session also covered the role of the CAMHS team, the Educational Psychologist and behavior support.

Following the workshops parents made their way back to the hall for a social evening which included live music and a hot supper.

A raffle took place and a small market place was available for parents to collect information and talk to staff and colleagues. The stalls included, the schools parent mentoring scheme and the newly founded parent partnership scheme.

A pack of information was given to all parents on arrival which included; How to help your child learn, meeting with teachers and making the most of parents evenings.

Parents were asked to complete a questionnaire to suggest other topics and themes for future sessions.

Parents were also asked to complete an evaluation of the evening.

Outcome

The event attracted over 100 parents, the school were successful in creating a relaxing fun social evening and engaging parents into informative workshops.

Staff also took this opportunity to evaluate the success of the session with parents who attended and survey parents for future ideas and themes to build on.