

Parent Forum meeting
Thursday 13th October



Present: Katie Stafford, Kate Biddle, Tawa Bello, Jacqui Groves, Denise Gibbons, Julia Terry, Kara Guppy, Rod Johnstone, Tim Jackson, Nicole Parker, Rosalind Mchague, Melissa Clinton

Apologies: Sarah Montgomery, Celia Rennie,

Focus: Power Skills

Skills Builder is a not-for-profit social enterprise that works with educators, employers and parents to help students develop essential skills. These essential power skills unlock learning in the classroom, boosting academic outcomes, perseverance and self belief. Power skills development boosts wellbeing, life satisfaction and earning over a lifetime.

1. The parent forum discussed which skills are essential for employment and adult life. There was agreement that the following are essential; communication, independence, organisation, time management, flexibility, multi- tasking and resilience. The group agreed that these skills can be taught to students.
2. Katie Stafford, Assistant Principal explained what Skills Builder is, why and where it is being used in the academy. Skills Builder helps students, teachers and parents identify eight essential skills and provides a shared language around the use of skills. Skills Builder also provides a framework of progression to enable teachers to plan teaching and learning activities to develop student competency in skills development. Skills Builder also allows students to self-assess their own progression. When used in the academy, teachers and students refer to Power Skills to be in line with other academies in the Aspirations Trust, and the use of the term Power Skills reminds students how valuable skills development is. Skills Builder have completed extensive research around the wide reaching benefits of the development of skills for young people. There is a strong relationship between skills development and academic or employment outcomes as well as student emotional and social wellbeing.

The Futures Programme

Students have learnt about power skills extensively in their Futures Programme. Before writing CVs or personal statements, students have used the power skills to identify their strengths and relevant experiences. Year 10 and 12 have completed mock interviews, where our guest employers have asked questions based around the eight power skills. Year 10 and 12 have also had experience of the workplace or have completed a week of work experience when they have explicitly learnt how the power skills are essential in the workplace. In journals, they have identified when they have used the skills during their work experience.

ATL

In the Aspirations Transdisciplinary Learning lessons, Years 7 and 8 work collectively on projects where students are explicitly learning skills progression using Skills Builder.

Sixth Form

All sixth form teachers are planning teaching and learning tasks which explicitly embed the Power Skills into their lessons. Sixth Form students and teachers are using the online Skills Builder tools to assess their skills development.

Personal Development

Students across all year groups are focusing on developing four essential power skills during their personal development lessons. They are focusing on developing speaking, listening, staying positive and teamwork.

Rewards

Skills Builder provides certificates to recognise and reward skills development. Teachers across the academy will be using these to reward students for the development of skills in their lessons, personal development and enrichment activities.

Magna Academy has already been awarded a silver certificate from Skills Builder for their work on skills development [viewed here](#) and please see our most recent [Futures](#) newsletter to see how students have been developing their skills through the Futures Programme.

Questions from parents

Members of the parent forum had time to look at various resources used for the teaching of skills.

Parental Questions	Academy Response
What is the provision for the teaching of skills in Years 9, 10 and 11?	<p>Students across all year groups will learn about the power skills in the Futures programme and in Personal Development.</p> <p>Year 10 students explicitly identify their skills development when experiencing work and taking part in mock interviews.</p> <p>Furthermore, students will also learn about how their skills are being developed when they take part in enrichment clubs.</p> <p>All curriculum areas have identified in their curriculum plans when power skills are being used to help students to understand when they are developing these skills.</p> <p>However, the explicit use of Power Skills is still quite a new initiative in the academy. It is important that we learn what works well before blanket use. Therefore at this stage of implementation, Years 7, 8, 12 and 13 have</p>

	been identified as key years for explicit teaching and evaluation of progress.
Will parents be informed about their child's development of skills?	<p>At this stage, we do not plan on reporting skills development to parents. However, students in Years 7, 8, 12 and 13 will be completing self-assessments in skills development and this information can be accessed on any device.</p> <p>Skills Builder provides parental guidance and home based activities that parents can use with their children.</p> <p>Katie Stafford will share these activities with the parent forum for feedback before sharing more widely with parents across the academy.</p>

AOB

Parental Questions	Academy Response
There was concern from some parents about the parentpay accounts for lunchtime payments. There were questions about what the problems were and what was happening.	<p>It was recognised that there had been problems with the online payment accounts which have been out of the academy's control.</p> <p>A letter was sent to parents on the 15th October describing the issue and resolution. A handful of historic issues have since been identified and parents and carers will be updated after half term as to the issues having been resolved and what to do next.</p>
There was a query about the use of Tassomi for English and whether it has been working. Could parents be informed if there are any problems accessing online homework?	Moving forward students will only be using Tassomi for science homework. Students will no longer be completing Tassomi homework for English and maths. Mrs Bleeze will be updating parents on how to access Tassomi for science homework before half term.
Will parents be able to access the new management system SIMS as they used to be able to do with Progresso?	Over half term, the parents' forum will be asked to test out a SIMS app for feedback before sharing more widely with parents.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st December when all parents are welcome to attend.
The meeting closed at 6pm.