

## **KS3 High Achiever Focus Group 11/11/15**

### **What format did the meeting take?**

The students who took part were selected because they had successfully achieved in the areas of Speaking, Reading and Writing and their overall progress grade was green. The students were told that the purpose of the meeting was to find out their thoughts as to why they believed they had excelled themselves in English. The meeting lasted for one lesson and students were invited to give honest responses to questions posed by JN.

At the end of the session, JN read the minutes of the meeting to the group and corrected his work in accordance with their requests to ensure that the boys felt they were quoted accurately.

### **Students in Attendance**

ALI Hasan

MITEVA Alex

OBIKA-CHUKWUEKE Mel

SONNEX Tobias

SOUFFRIN-WATTS Jamie

GOIS BALDEJOS Jonathon

MOXOM Jack

DUQUE GOMEZ John

### **Questions Asked**

#### **Why did you choose the teacher that you did?**

Student A - I'm used to the way he teaches, I've been with him for two years.

JN - If you chose the same teacher next year, you would be with that teacher for 5 years - how do you feel about that?

Student A - I know the class and he knows me, that wouldn't bother me.

Student B - I progress well in his class. I thought that staying with him would mean I would continue to progress.

(Anon)- I regret choosing the teacher I did because I don't feel we do enough writing. We only read.

JN - Is learning only associated with writing?

Student C - All I'm saying is that I would like to write more. We should read and write at the same time.

Student D - I chose him in Year 8 and Year 9. I didn't choose in Year 7 and I was placed in Mr Waugh's class. I was happy that I didn't choose my class and I got him by accident. I'm happy with the level 8 I got in my exam. I got the English award last year. The reason I continue to choose him is because I am happy and I don't want to go for a different style.

Student E - There were lots of reasons why I chose this teacher, we have two drama periods. Drama isn't working out. I still don't regret picking him. He is a good teacher. The first impression he gave in the assembly really showed something and his syllabus really interested me.

Student F - I chose him last year. I like the way he teaches and his programme was appealing to me.

### **Why do you think you're achieving well in English?**

Student E - the way my teacher teaches and what he teaches interests me. It's not boring. You're attentive and you're listening. It's not like other classes where people are disruptive. Everyone tries their hardest and it goes well.

Student D - I picked the same teacher. I'm focusing and I like what I'm doing. I study at home.

Student C - When my teacher talks, I always concentrate. When I'm doing my work, I'm quiet, I focus on what I'm doing and I read through my work.

Student B - I don't know

Student A - I feel comfortable with the way he's teaching. I know how to...

Student F - I enjoy the subject and he can control the class well.

### **Is there something you really enjoy in English? Why?**

Student F - I enjoyed making movies or clips

Student D - The projects, using our phones, badges

Student C - I like being selected by classcharts to read.

Student B - Reading and badges

Student A - Reading and scene summaries

Student E - how the teacher teaches and how everyone is focussed. I enjoy the competitions, especially with the summaries.

Student G - Independent reading time

### **For those who didn't choose, why didn't you choose?**

Student G - I didn't feel like it. I did not know which selection was better or worse.

### **What problems do you face in English?**

Student A - spelling

Student D - Punctuation

Student C - Punctuation

Student F - Spelling

### **What is the biggest reason for your success?**

- CW
- Strictness
- CW
- CW
- CW
- JO
- My imagination

### **Summary of Findings**

- The students still feel that the relationship they hold with their teachers is key. Many of them selected their teacher based on them.
- Students also hold their teachers as a big factor for their success
- Reading is something our high achievers value
- Students are happy when classcharts picks them, they want this attention
- This cohort held concern for SPG and would value this in the classroom
- Students like competitions
- The badge system has been received well by this cohort