

Parent Forum Meeting

Wednesday 11th October 2017

Matters discussed	Action
<p>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Mr T. Kay (TK) Assistant Principal, Mr D. Smith, Assistant Principal, Fiona Wilkins (FW), Marketing & Communications Manager, Caroline Dowdell & Robert Sandy, Parent Governors</p> <p><i>Parents present indicated they have children primarily in Year 7 with one Year 9 new to the school</i></p> <p>FW welcomed parents and explained that Parent Forum meetings are to encourage parents (particularly with those new to the school or new to the secondary system) to come in and ask questions in an informal setting. If parents have particular concerns about their son or his work they should contact their son's tutor or teacher in the first instance. Contact can be made via the planner or by telephoning/email (mail@ernestbevin.london). Please note the majority of teachers are teaching during the day so you will need to leave a message and expect a call back.</p> <p>These meetings happen once a term and there will usually be a short presentation from a member of staff about a topic of interest to parents (eg Keeping your kids safe online, Getting the Most from Parents Evening or Doodle online resource.) There is also the chance for parents to ask questions and meet other parents.</p> <p>Other ways of keeping in touch with what is going on in college:</p> <p>SCHOOL WEBSITE – is a good source of information eg Calendar, Blue Tie Year page, Curriculum pages, plus News & photo galleries</p> <p>BEVIN NEWS – newsletter is emailed home to parents usually once a fortnight. There are photos/reports about trips and activities that have taken place etc. You can also download it from the website or pick up a paper copy from Reception.</p> <p>ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE – clubs and sport activities is on the school website and was emailed home last week. Paper copies in Reception. Please note some clubs do change during the year.</p> <p>Question: How do boys join a club, my son was told one he wanted to attend was full? As far as we know Baking Club is the only one that is oversubscribed so boys attend every other week. For other clubs the pupil should go along and speak to the teacher who has organised it. If they have problems see their tutor, Head of Year or Mr Kay.</p> <p>MY ED APP – All parents attending had downloaded the app and were generally pleased with the information that is available. It was explained that the system is new to the college this year and we hope to improve and update it as it is embedded in the college.</p> <p>Question: Is the Message box monitored? FW: yes but once a day so it is not the best place to send urgent messages. If you are reporting an Absence please use Absence Hotline under Messaging (black bar at the bottom of your phone screen second icon from left). This is monitored daily before absence texts go out. If you send an absence message to the general inbox, this has to be forwarded to the Attendance Officer & so you may still get an absence text. Messages are generally forwarded to the relevant member or staff so you may not receive a direct reply via the app.</p> <p>Question: Can more information be provided with Achievement points eg what lesson etc Achievement points are awarded by individual teachers for good effort, behaviour, homework etc and some teachers will have time to put more information than others. We will look into how we can provide more information. Achievement points accumulate and certificates are awarded.</p> <p>Question: How frequently are Achievement/Behaviour Points Awarded? Achievement points are to reward exceptional work or behaviour so they will not be awarded in every lesson or every day. They are used as an incentive for continued good work so Year 7s will acquire more than Year 11s for example. Hopefully Behavior points are much rarer – if homework is not done or for bad behaviour. If your son is accumulating lots of behaviour points you will be contacted by the school to discuss this further.</p>	

Question: There was an issue whereby Achievement/Behaviour points weren't showing, so I reloaded the app. I have lost my history of messages before I reloaded

There was a problem with the app a week or two ago which we contacted the company about and they resolved in about 48 hours. This would have coincided with the problems you were having which have now been resolved. If you are experiencing problems with the app, the company does advise to delete it from your device and then reload it. We do not know why you have lost your messaging history and will raise it with the company.

DODDLE – DS gave a brief introduction to Doddle. He explained it is primarily used by teachers in Key Stage 3 so Years 7, 8 & 9. It was introduced 2 years ago and is a system that has been adopted by a number of schools when the government abolished levels. Doddle looks at the curriculum for each subject and provides tests and resources for each element. It is particularly useful in ensuring consistency across year groups so that all students have access to the same resources despite having different teachers.

All parents should have received a letter via their son with a parental log in and pin code. Parents need to log in using Parent Log in button on bottom left of the screen not the teacher/student main log in. Parents can ask your son to log in and show you what he is doing using his student log in.

A Year 8 student showed parents how he uses Doddle. He showed two pieces of homework: one was in Music & was a worksheet that the teacher had uploaded asking students to find out about a piece of music and write up what they learnt. The other was an English Quiz about a book they are studying. The idea is that the pupil should read the relevant section and then answer the quiz questions to check how much he had understood. He also showed some of the different revision resources that pupils can use.

Mr Smith showed the teacher log in and explained how teachers use it to assess & monitor whether skills have been acquired. A teacher can set tasks and see which ones have been achieved through simple colour coding; red, amber, green. This enables the teacher in the classroom to focus teaching on skills that have not yet been mastered. It also enables the subject leader with lesson planning across the subject & year group & to keep track of classes. It can also be used to monitor levels of progress; pupils should make 3-4 grades of progress from their starting point at the beginning of Year 7.

Question: My son has one green Doddle task and 39 Red, is this right?

Normally teachers assign tasks when they have been covered in a lesson and it is unlikely that 40 modules have been covered already. So it is most likely that the Red tasks have not been covered yet. FW will check with the Maths department

Maths Dept reply: There have been 40 skills assessed via our Baseline test. I have looked over the data and some of those are due to higher step level skills being assessed. As the year progresses these will eventually become amber or green.

Question: Son has been given some homework on Fronter the worksheets were scanned horizontally rather than vertically so the child had to try and fill them in sideways.

Maths Dept answer: The textbooks are scanned in online, as it is a pdf, there is an option to rotate the text at the top right corner when using adobe acrobat reader.

Question: I haven't received my Doddle Pin yet?

These were sent home last week with the pupils but it is possible some letters didn't make it home. Check with your son if it is at the bottom of a bag otherwise contact the college for a replacement.

Question: How often will I get a report on our son's progress?

Reports are sent out once a term. These are data sheets with a grade for attainment and effort. The first one will be sent in January by post. We are hoping to cut down paper mail outs over the year and to send these reports via the app later on in the year. You will receive a written report at the end of each academic year.

Question: When is parent's evening and how often do they take place?

Year 7 Parents Evening is on Thursday 30th November from 4.30-7pm. It is your chance to see your

FW to
contact
MyEd &
ask

FW to
email
outstanding
code to
parent

son's tutor and subject teachers. Please be aware that these evenings get very busy and you will need to queue to see your son's teachers. You may not see everyone so prioritise the teachers. You can also contact them through the year by telephoning/emailing the college or by writing a note in your son's planner. In Year 7 there is one Parent's Evening planned.

Question: What exam boards do you use for GCSEs?

This information will be provided to Year 9 Parents at Options Evening in January. There is some changes taking place due to the new GCSE syllabuses.

YEAR 7 INDUCTION – TK said the year 7s have had a really positive start. There were a few little niggles a couple of weeks in but nothing major and all seem to have settled down again. They seem a nice year group.

Question: What are the NFER tests that Year 7 have just taken used for?

These tests are similar to the Wandsworth Test which the majority of pupils took a year ago in Year 6. They take them again to see where they are and we use them to produce a target level and check they are in the right sets.

Question: Will any of the boys move set as a result of the tests?

It is possible, normally at the beginning of Year 7 there is some movement. We are waiting for the test scores to come back but at the minute we don't think there will be much movement.

Question: Which language do they learn?

In their Year 6 interview they were asked if they had already learnt a language and were put in classes studying either French or Spanish depending on their response. They will also have the chance to study Mandarin and gain a certificate from the Confucius Institute at the end of Year 7. To change language they will need to change tutor group.

Question: What trips will they go on in Year 7

There are a number of day trips offered like the Year 7 History Trip last week and there are also trips to the Science Museum. There is a Year 7 PGL Residential trip in March which is Friday to Monday. If there are places on the other trips eg Skiing or Geography or MFL trips Year 7s can go but you need to contact the teacher responsible directly to see if there are any places left.

Question: Are there meetings before these trips?

Usually for longer overseas trips a meeting will be held to give parents more information. For the day trips and shorter trips like PGL there isn't usually a parent meeting.

Question: How do we inform trip leaders of medical needs?

This should be picked up from the Medical data we hold for individuals and should be noted on forms when you give permission for trips. If you have any concerns please speak to the course leaders. For day trips boys are reminded to take medication with them & can pick up inhalers/epi pens etc from the Medical Room on the day. They should remember to return them when they get back.

Question: Will there be more trips on a Friday as it means boys can't attend prayers at the mosque?

Trips are arranged with external providers eg Museums etc and we do not always have control over the days. Boys are offered the opportunity for prayer and reflection on a trip should they wish.

Parent's details to be given to Head of MFL to discuss