

Parent Forum Meeting

Friday 20th January 2017

Matters discussed	Action
<p><i>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Claudia Boateng (CAB), Assistant Principal, Fiona Wilkins (FW), Marketing & Communications Manager, Caroline Dowdell & Robert Harris Parent Governors</i> <i>Parents present indicated they have children primarily in Year 7 & Year 8.</i></p> <p>FW welcomed parents and explained that Parent Forums 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. She explained that there would be a short presentation about Doodle for Parents and asked whether parents had any other questions they would like to raise.</p> <p>DODDLE – CAB gave a short presentation about Doodle for Parents. She explained Doodle Learning had been introduced to the college in September 2015 as an online homework and assessment tool that had been introduced after the Government had removed National Curriculum levels. It is a system used by schools across the country and is popular with students & teachers. The system is relatively new and as a result of feedback from ourselves and other schools, Doodle Learning have recently introduced Parent Logins so parents can see how their child is doing. She then explained how to log in & parents were given the chance to try on their phones.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Go to www.doodlelearning.co.uk 2) Click on blue LOG IN button in the top right corner 3) Click on Parent LOG IN or PARENT DODDLE button in bottom left corner 4) Enter your email address & a password (this is your choice- make it something easy to remember!) 5) You will be sent an email to your email address, click the link included to verify your email address 6) Log in to Doodle choosing Ernest Bevin College as institution and entering your email address & password 7) You will then need to enter your parent KEY – this is a 16-digit number, unique to your son. If you have more than one child at the school, you can enter each child's KEY & see data for each child. This 16-digit key comes from the college. It will be sent home to parents or given out at Parents Evening. 8) When you log in you will be able to see each subject your son is studying and a traffic light system of skills they are secure in (GREEN), working towards (AMBER) and not yet acquired. Each of these skills has a code and you can enter this code to find out more information about each skill, including revision notes. <p>Question: Why is everything on computers? They have nothing to look at if they want to go over a topic or revise. Doodle is the main resource that is on computer and homework in KS3 is often set by teachers on Doodle. It is meant to be a recap of topics studied in class. The boys have exercise books for class work and use textbooks in class. Online work is only a small proportion of work set, it seems more prominent because this is the tool used for homework.</p> <p>Question: How are the quizzes effective? They are multiple choice with 4 answers, 2 of which can usually be discarded immediately so the child is left with a 50:50 choice of the right answer – are they actually learning anything? Doodle Learning is a system that has been devised nationally and is used by schools all over the country to fill a gap left after the government removed levels. It is evolving & new tests are being added so it is not just Ernest Bevin using it. Also it is not the only way teachers assess the children, they mark books & look at work done in class, this is just one tool being used.</p> <p>REPORTS – Reports are sent home at the end of every term. In the Winter & Spring term, this is primarily data, in the summer term, there is more of a narrative. FW asked parents if they had found the reports useful, as there had been a number of changes since the removal of levels & parents had</p>	<p>FW to raise with Senior Team</p> <p>Parent to talk to teachers/ senior teachers at Parents evening for reassurance</p>

<p>raised concerns last year about the new style reports. Comment: <i>One parent said they were better than last year and the removal of the large numbers had made it easier to understand.</i></p> <p>Question: What did the numbers mean? There is a large amount of data on the sheet and it should represent grades achieved during assessments at the end of each half term. You should be able to see progress over time. There are also Minimum Target Grades and effort grades. You will be given a copy of the latest report at Parents Evening and it should form the basis for discussion with the subject teachers, about where the student is making progress and areas they need to work on</p> <p>Question: Are Minimum Target Grades set for each individual student? Yes, there will be target grades for each student based on their ability and the year group they are in.</p> <p>Question: How are the reports sent home because I did not receive one? The reports and other important information is posted home by the college or given to the boys. If this is the case, a text message will be sent to parents telling them to ask their son for his report. Parents with concerns should check the office has up to date contact details. At parents evening you will be given a copy of your son's latest report to discuss with teachers.</p> <p>GETTING THE MOST FROM PARENTS EVENING – Year 7 Parents evening is on Thursday 26th January from 4.30-7pm in the main hall. Parents are strongly advised to attend if possible with their son. It is a very busy evening and there are not appointments. Parents should be aware some teachers will teach more than one class in a year group and tutors will be particularly busy. When you arrive get your son's report and try and prioritise the teachers you really want to see but be smart and don't join the longest queue. You may not be able to see all the teachers but if you would still like some feedback, put a note in your son's planner or telephone/email the college and ask to speak to the teacher at another time.</p> <p>Question: When do students make their GCSE options? In Year 9, the Options evenings have just taken place. At the beginning of the spring term you will be invited to one Options Evening – they are split into A-side & B-side and that determines the subject choices your son will have. All boys do 2 English, Maths & Science (A-side will do 3 science & B-side 2 sciences), A-side will do a Language; If you speak a different language at home, your son may be able to take a GCSE in this language without it being offered formally at the college. There will also be a choice of History or Geography and then some optional courses. There are a number of options ranging from Art, to DT, catering & hospitality, Business etc. Your son will put down 4 choices in order of priority as the college many not be able to run every course if there are insufficient students who want to study it. They don't have to give up a subject totally if they don't study it & can take it up later or continue with it as a hobby eg Food Tech, there are various opportunities including Baking Club & Young Chef competition.</p> <p>READING VOLUNTEERS – college is looking for some parents who may be able to spare an hour a week to read with some of our EAL (English as an Additional Language) students.</p> <p>EXAM INVIGILATORS – college takes on invigilators to supervise exams in the summer term. This year from 15th May to 29th June. You don't have to commit to every day but it helps if you can say you will be available for regular sessions each week. Start time is 8.30am for 9am morning exam or 1.30pm for 2pm afternoon exam. Payment around £10ph and see FW if interested.</p> <p>E-SAFETY – In February there will be E-Safety assemblies for the boys. We will also run a parent workshop if there is interest. We are a member of an organisation called Digital Schools and have access to free online training. Parents were given an handout with a password to access this training. Anyone interested can contact FW for this information. Parents were also given copies of Digital Parenting magazine which is sent home to Year 8 parents each year and is full of tips about parental controls and keeping children safe online.</p> <p>Question: When is swimming club starting up again? In the summer term, the pool had to shut for maintenance, this maintenance caused a number of</p>	<p>Parent to check address with office</p> <p>See FW</p> <p>Contact FW</p> <p>Contact FW fwilkins@ernestbevin.london</p>
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knock on effects that meant the pool remained closed until November which was longer than anticipated. Swimming is now back for external groups & lessons are able to continue as per timetable. A Parent said they had received a letter from the college saying swimming club would start next week Tuesday 24th January at 7.30am and on Wednesdays subject to staffing.

FW spoke to PE department after the meeting and confirmed

Learn to swim – Tuesdays from 24th Jan at 7.30am

Improvers – Wednesdays from 25th Jan, 7.50am access to changing rooms, 8am start.