

# Parent Forum Meeting

## Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Matters discussed	Action
<p><b>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Alastair Duncan (ADD) Assistant Principal &amp; Head of GreenTies, Claudia Boateng (CAB) Assistant Principal, Fiona Wilkins (FW), Marketing &amp; Communications Manager &amp; Caroline Dowdell, Parent Governor</b>  <i>Parents present indicated they have children primarily in Year 7 but also some other years including some new to Year 12.</i></p> <p>FW welcomed parents and explained that Parent Coffee Mornings 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 on an individual basis they should contact their son's tutor in the first instance. 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 (today) Doodle online resource.)</p> <p><b>NEW YEAR 7 GREEN TIES</b> – ADD told parents that the boys have settled in very well. There have been no major concerns for the vast majority of the boys. During this first half term teachers have been assessing the boys and all boys have sat NFER tests (Reading and mathematics paper-based tests that help monitor pupil progress and identify strengths and weaknesses). As a result some boys will be moving tutor groups after half term. It will be between 20-30 boys and all will be told in person why they are being moved.  A letter will also be sent home explaining to parents about the move and if parents have any questions they can contact Mr Duncan or Mr Lee, the Green Tie leadership team.</p> <p><b>BEVIN NEWS etc</b>– FW explained that Bevin News is produced approximately once a fortnight and emailed home to parents. If you don't receive a copy, please check with the office that the college has an up-to-date email address for you. Paper copies are also left in Reception and it can be viewed on the school website.</p> <p><b>SCHOOL WEBSITE</b> – is another good source of information eg news and photos are updated regularly and there is information about curriculum, clubs and sport.</p> <p><b>ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE</b> – clubs and sport activities was given out and is on the school website.</p> <p><b>YEAR 7 PHOTOS</b> – a photo of the whole Year 7 (not individual photos) was taken on the first day of term. A proof had gone home the day before so parents should ask their son for it or could take a spare copy. Orders are due back by 3<sup>rd</sup> November or can be made online as explained on the proof.</p> <p><b>DODDLE</b> – CAB gave a brief introduction to Doodle, a new online teaching and learning resource that the college has invested in. All students have been given a log in. Some departments are using it more than others eg Maths and Science are setting a lot of homework particularly for Key Stage 3 using Doodle and are finding the resources are very good.  Teachers can see the score each pupil achieves, when they are taking the test etc and this helps them plan future activities. One of the advantages of Doodle is that teachers can use it to assess and track progress. You can see each pupil's average step or where they are at present and whether they are above or below the target level. Steps equate to the new GCSE levels.</p> <p><b>Parent Q: Are pupils able to retake the test if they want to?</b>  CAB: Pupils can go back and take the test again or the teacher will reset it particularly if the whole class has struggled with one topic.</p> <p><b>Parent Q: Are the Sixth Form using it too?</b>  CAB: There is an A Level suite being rolled out but currently they are not using it unless individual teachers are using it to supplement their lessons.</p> <p><b>Parent Comment:</b> <i>Sometimes the homework that has been assigned is not ready by the time the deadline comes around deadline eg MFL could this be addressed with the department?</i></p>	<p>CAB to check. Further info will be posted on college website</p>

## **PARENT QUESTIONS**

### ***Parent Q: How frequently are the toilets cleaned?***

FW: The main toilets for the boys are by the dinner hall. They are cleaned during the day and in the each evening. Boys are encouraged to use the toilets during break and lunch time so it could be your son is trying to use them after a particularly busy period and before they are cleaned again. A member of staff stands outside the toilets during these busy periods and looks after bags etc so they don't have to take them in. They do not generally go into the toilets. The college will check the cleanliness of the toilets.

### ***Parent Q: Do the Year 7s have to use the college bag because it is not waterproof?***

FW: No boys can use any suitable bag to bring their equipment into college. Many of the older boys will have one bag for books etc and another PE bag. It is preferable they are dark colours/discreet not with big sport's logos if possible

### ***Parent Q: Is there anywhere to leave bags/coats etc in college? Why can't they have lockers?***

FW: There is not space in the college for all boys to have a locker. Some tutors will have a cupboard and allow boys to leave coats, PE kit etc in their tutor base until they need them. Many boys prefer to carry everything with them as they may not be close to their tutor base during the day. Musical instruments can be left in the music room. During PE the teachers will collect valuables (phones, watches, etc) and look after them for the lesson. Parents are reminded that boys shouldn't need money and phones should not be used in college. It is probably best for the younger boys in particular not to have the latest & most expensive phones as they have a tendency to loose things at this age & it can make them a target to have it stolen outside of school

### ***Parent Q: Is there anything the college can do about the speed vehicles leave the Springfield site? Some leave very quickly and if boys spill on to the road there could be an accident***

FW: College was not aware of this problem in particular but there are members of staff on duty at the back gate and on local streets at 3.30pm to ensure the safety of all pupils leaving the college. They do remind boys to walk on pavements etc but are not able to direct traffic. There is a consultation taking place about the redevelopment of the Springfield site and parents may like to mention their concerns in this formal context.

***Parent Comment: I saw a boy being knocked over by a car in front of the school towards the end of September. A parent had pulled over on Beechcroft Road to drop a child. Another boy started to cross the road in front of the car as the car was pulling off and knocked the boy off his feet. He didn't seem hurt, and he straightened himself up and continued to cross the road.***

### ***Parent Q: My son in Year 7 is being asked for money by older boys, what should I do?***

FW: This is not acceptable, you or your son need to report it asap so the college can deal with it immediately. Mr Lee will be available at break time today and you can talk to him then. Your son will be asked to identify the boys involved from their tie colour and photos. These boys will be spoken to individually and this behaviour will not be allowed to continue.

The college will always deal with any incidents of this nature individually but you have to let your son's tutor or head of year know.

Also it is best for boys not to bring money or any valuables into school.

*Another Parent confirmed that her son had had problems with older boys. It had been reported and the college had dealt with the behaviour as explained and it had stopped with no further incidents.*

School to investigate further and send report to council etc

Parent spoke to Mr Lee, Head of Y7 after meeting