

Parent Group Meeting

Tuesday 15th October 2013

Matters discussed	Action
<p>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Mr Beneke (PAB), Head of Science, Ms Williams (TVW) Head of Yellow Tie Achievement, Fiona Wilkins (FW), Marketing & Communications Manager & Caroline Dowdell, Parent Governor</p> <p>SCHOOL TOUR – Mr Beneke took parents on a short tour of the school taking in some of the Year 7 & 8 lessons. These included Year 7 Science, Art and History lessons.</p> <p>YELLOW TIES – Ms Williams said: We are really pleased how the new Year 7 students have settled in. They are a calm cohort in the way they move around college and in lessons. They are also keen to get involved in judo, volleyball etc.</p> <p>MUSIC TUITION – Reminder to parents that free music tuition is available to all boys. We still have places for boys in Year 7 so please ask for a letter to apply for a place.</p> <p>PARENT COMMENT: <i>If we have already filled in the form when will we hear about a place?</i> <i>Answer: you should have heard, so follow up, either send a note in the planner or phone the college.</i></p> <p>NFER TESTS – All Y7 sat these papers two weeks ago. The results are used to set Minimum Target Levels for each boy and for setting the boys, so there may be some tutor group changes as a result.</p> <p>TUTOR GROUP CHANGES – Mrs Williams said: from the data so far they are not expecting as many changes as can sometimes be the case this year. We are waiting for comments from teachers and a letter will be sent home next Thursday or Friday if your son is being moved. They were originally set on the Wandsworth Test score and in some cases this was missing so it is a chance to get boys in the correct tutor group for their ability.</p> <p>TEACHING IN SETS – At the beginning of Year 7 boys are usually taught in their tutor group of similar abilities. In Year 8 they will be taught in sets for English, Maths and Science. In Year 9 more subjects will be taught in sets and the tutor group becomes more of a base for pastoral care. Ms Williams explained that parents should not worry about setting and gave the example of her GCSE class which was a 4th set but that boys in that group still achieved A & B grades and all were expected to achieve a C grade. Lower sets were still expected to make the required levels of progress and achieve good exam results!</p> <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – Will take place next Tuesday 22nd October. You will receive a letter with your appointment time. Each student and their parents get a 15 min slot during the day. The boys should have thought about their 3 personal targets during tutor time. Please encourage them to set targets that are academic or address a specific problem your son may be having (eg punctuality). You can then use your time with the tutor to discuss your son's progress, any issues that have arisen or any concerns you may have.</p> <p>PARENT QUESTION: <i>Are the boys in lessons that day & how many PD days are there?</i> <i>Answer: No there are no lessons and boys are only expected to be in college for their meeting time. There are 2 Personal Development days a year, one in October and one in March.</i></p> <p>PARENT QUESTION: <i>Can you request a specific time for this meeting?</i> <i>Yes, send a note to the tutor asap in planner or get your son to request a time. If you can't make the time you have been allocated, please telephone to rearrange, don't just not turn up. If you have more than one son in college, you will be allocated slots around the same time of day.</i></p> <p>TARGET SETTING – The Government now expects every student to make 3 levels of progress during secondary school. There is a correlation between level at end of Year 9 and their predicted GCSE grades, ie Level 5= Grade C, Level 6 = B, Level 7 = A/A*.</p> <p>PARENT QUESTION: <i>Will our sons still be sitting GCSEs?</i> <i>Answer: Government policy is still not clear but rest assured EBC will continue to strive to ensure boys follow courses and sit exams best suited to their abilities.</i></p>	<p>FW to email SR</p>

FRONTER – is used for homework and boys should be able to upload homework tasks from home. They can print out work in the library from Fronter or email but not from USB sticks as the college does not allow external USBs to be used generally because of the risk of viruses. Some teachers may help students print off their work but we encourage them to become more independent as they get older. There are a number of resources on Fronter.

PARENT QUESTION: Do Parents have a separate Fronter log in?

Answer: not at the minute, there is a tab for this on the school website but it has never been activated. However you should encourage your son to let you have a look around using his log in.

PARENT QUESTION: How can we help with homework?

Answer: If there is a problem with homework and your son/you don't understand the task, please contact the teacher involved as they would want to know.

If you are after additional resources, try Fronter or BBC Bitesize, there are lots of good resources linked to the curriculum.

COMMUNICATION– Mr Beneke encouraged parents to contact the college if there was a problem. He suggested you asked your son's tutor how best to get in touch. Some prefer notes in the planner, others email. Generally telephone is not the best way to contact a teacher as they are usually teaching all day and there aren't phones in the classroom. Teachers will telephone if it is urgent or they think it best to talk to you. You can also email the college general email mail@ernestbevin.wandsworth.sch.uk and ask for it to be forwarded to a particular teacher. Mrs Wilkins reminded parents that there are pages on the school website for each curriculum subject with a list of teachers in each department and curriculum guides.

BEVIN NEWS – Mrs Wilkins reminded parents that Bevin News was circulated during term time via email and on the school website. If parents would like to receive Bevin News by email they should email her on fwilkins@ernestbevin.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Mr Beneke thanked everyone for coming and for their continued support of the school.