

Parent Forum Meeting

Wednesday 31st January 2018

| Matters discussed | Action |
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| <p>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Mr O. Omo (OO), Assistant Principal; Mrs C Weatherhead (CJW), English & Literacy Teacher; Mr N. McCarthy (NM), Fiona Wilkins (FW), Marketing & Communications Manager, Caroline Dowdell & Robert Sandy, Parent Governors <i>Parents present indicated they have children primarily in Year 7 with one Year 8 parent</i></p> <p>FW welcomed parents and shared the agenda and minutes from last term's meeting. There would be time for questions at the end.</p> <p>REPORTS Mr Omo shared with parents two anonymised reports one for a student in Key stage 3 (ie years 7, 8 &9) & one for a student in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 &11). He stressed the most important column for parents to take note of in KS3 is the Effort grade. Boys should be getting 1 or 2 for effort in their subject. If they do not put the effort in at the beginning and all through their first 5 years at Bevin, it is very difficult to catch up and obtain good grades later. Boys who start well usually finish strongly. It is about good study habits being in place early on and getting used to working independently outside the classroom. If you are seeing 3,4 or 5 for effort, it is a problem.</p> <p>Question: How do the grades match up OO: The government has introduced new 1-9 grades at GCSE with 1 being low, 5 being a strong C pass, and 9 being the highest grade above the old A*. The grades from Year 7 are designed to match up and the expectation is that the boys should make at least one level of progress a year. So if boys start at a 1 or 2 they should be able to achieve at least a 5 or 6 by the end of Year 11.</p> <p>Question: What is the Guide Target Grade We used to to call this the Minimum target grade but decided Guide Target Grade was a better description. This is the grade the child is predicted to get based on his end of KS 2 SATS scores.</p> <p>Question: How often are reports sent home? OO: reports are sent home once a term, usually at the end/beginning of each term. So Autumn term reports were sent home at the beginning of January. There will be another report generated at the end of the Spring term and you will receive a 3rd report in the summer term which will include a tutor report with a written narrative about your son.</p> <p>Questions: How are reports sent home? Reports used to be sent home by post and students in all years 8-13 were mailed the reports this way in January. We would like to send reports home via the app and so Year 7 reports were sent home via the app. Parents needed to click on the link in the app message and it would take you to a letter from the Principal and ac opy of your son's report. Parents who do not have the app were sent an SMS message with the same link. Reports were sent out on 5th January. Parents who had not received the report should leave their details at the end.</p> <p>Question: One of the teachers said & parents evening he had inputted the wrong data? There is a two week period each term when teachers input the data & it is then checked by Heads of Departments so there should not be any errors. Mr Omo will follow up</p> <p>ALL PARENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO DOWNLOAD THE APP AS THE COLLEGE IS PLANNING TO SEND MORE INFORMATION HOME THIS WAY AND IT DOES NOT COST THE COLLEGE OR PARENT TO USE THE APP FOR MESSAGING.</p> <p>YEAR 7 PARENT GROUP Mrs Weatherhead asked whether there was any enthusiasm by parents to set up a parent group to help parents get to know each other and the children in their classes. Ernest Bevin does not have a PTA but a parent group could help parents to find answers to questions, put them in contact with parents of their son's friends and possibly organise some social events. The easiest way to set something up fairly quickly would be to ask for volunteers from each Year 7 class to offer to act as a parent representative. The college could then message all parents in that tutor group and say if they</p> | <p>FW emailed the link again to the parents who said they had not received a report.</p> <p>OO to check</p> <p>Parents to leave contact details</p> |

would like to join a Whats App group for example to message the parent rep. Parents agreed and those who would be happy to act as a rep asked to leave their contact details.
A Parent suggested it would be better going forward to do this at the Induction evening and then parents would have each others contact details from the beginning of the year.

WELLBEING SURVEY

NM: explained to parents that the college is working towards a well being award. The government is consulting on a paper that would mean all schools would have a role to play in looking after the mental health of students by 2023. NM explained that this had been the focus of his role at the college for the last few years and so Ernest Bevin is ahead of the game but recognises there is always more to do.

A survey has been circulated to parents via email, staff and pupils would also be completing it. The purpose of the survey is to take a measure of where the college is now and then come up with areas we need to work on. He encouraged all parents to take the survey. Some parents said they had not seen the survey.

The college has set up a working party to work towards the award and would welcome a couple of parents to join the group. Meetings are held once a term on a Wednesday afternoon from 4-5pm To achieve the award the college would need to demonstrate the following competencies: create an environment where young people feel well; creating systems where support can be asked for & given; training staff to support young people; upskilling all stakeholders including parents.

Question: Do pupils know who to talk to?

NM: The pupils are told the first point of contact should always be their tutor. If they don't feel they can talk to their tutor, they can talk to any adult who works at the college, who will follow the correct procedures to refer any disclosures. If your child comes home and tells you about an incident that he has not reported, you can contact his tutor by phone/email/planner and it will be dealt with. It is the aim to deal with every issue where possible before the child goes home at the end of the day

Question: Detentions- are parents told?

Boys can be kept behind in break, lunch or for 20minutes on the same day without notifying home. For more serious issues or if your son is late more than twice or does not attend same day detentions he will be kept behind for an hour detention. You will be notified about this the day before.

Question: Why do teachers treat Year 7s the same as older pupils?

In Year 7 there is a big push on teachers setting expectations of behaviour as the children all come from different primary schools with different rules, so it is important to set the rules from the start. These are followed very strictly to set good standards.

Question: What do we do if my son can't find a teacher for a lunchtime detention?

They should be persistent or go the year office and ask another member of staff.

Question: My son has lost his log in and so cant do his homework?

The boys need to start taking responsibility and try and find the teacher at break etc to ask for a new log in. If they are really struggling you can contact the teacher on their behalf and ask for a log in.

Question: My son has said he is struggling to get a drink because the water fountains are broken?

There are a number of water fountains in college. There was an issue on Tuesday because we were hosting the Wandsworth Indoor Athletics competition and so boys were not allowed to get water from the sports centre as it was closed.

All Water fountains are working but they are turned off at times during the day when boys should be in lessons/tutor bases etc. Jugs of tap water are available in hall at break & lunch times

Question: When will we receive a letter about the Year 7 PGL trip?

These letters were sent home at the beginning of the year. The trip is now full. Parents need to ask their son for letters. The plan is for more information and trip letters etc to be sent home via the app so parents should check the college has the most up to date contact details for them. If it is important it will come as an in app message. Other information is sent home by email but this is usually longer messages or with attachments eg the survey, newsletters etc so check we have your email

FW to re-circulate the link

Parents to leave contact details if interested.

FW to check whether other water fountains are working

