

# Parent Forum Meeting

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Matters discussed	Action
<p><b>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Anna Southgate (ALS) Head of English, 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 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. 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.)            Other ways of keeping in touch:</p> <p><b>BEVIN NEWS etc</b>– FW explained that Bevin News is emailed home to parents once a fortnight. 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.  <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.  <b>ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE</b> – clubs and sport activities was given out and is on the school website.</p> <p><b>ACCELERATED READER</b> – ALS explained how the college uses Accelerated reader to help the boys improve their reading. Ideally they should be reading one book a month &amp; quizzing on it.  <b>Question: Do boys have to stick to books at the right level?</b>            ALS: There is a wide range of books in the college library at the different levels and boys should be able to find books they are interested in. The system is designed that they read &amp; understand books at the appropriate reading age. These books should be mostly understandable but will stretch them &amp; when they have shown they are successfully understanding most of the book through their quiz scores they will then be ready to move on to the next level. There is nothing to stop boys reading books for fun but they should be reading &amp; quizzing on a book at an appropriate level.  <b>Question: Expressed concern that everything is being done on a computer</b>            Boys have access to computers in the library at lunchtime &amp; after school &amp; the Accelerated Reader programme is also complemented by Doodle</p> <p><b>DODDLE</b> – ALS spoke about using Doodle in English. She explained a lot of English is about reading &amp; writing. This is all still done in books in the classroom but Doodle is used as a test to check what the boys have learnt &amp; understood. Tests can be very simple &amp; are generally liked by the boys. ALS explained how the 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 &amp; year group &amp; to keep track of classes. ALS encouraged parents to go home and have a look at Doodle with their son.</p> <p><b>Question: Once the work is done there is no hard copy so the boys can't see what they have done and have nothing to use to recap or revise a subject?</b>            ALS- the boys have exercise books for class work. They can also use revision guides, textbooks &amp; online resources like BBC Bitesize or Revision Guides on Doodle to revise.            They also use MyMaths &amp; there is the chance to do tests 2 or 3 times until they get most of it right.            ALS- encouraged parents to talk to their son's teachers either at Tutor Meet &amp; Greet in November or Parents Evening and ask if you have any questions.            We are trying to use technology in a positive way eg Fronter – can upload work or teachers can upload a resource as a pdf rather than printing out 30 copies of it.</p>	

**Question: How do you know when Homework is due?**

Year 7s should be writing in their planner, what homework they have & when it is due. Parents should be able to check the planner. If the planner is empty, the parents should check with their son they are writing homework down & contact tutor/teacher if problem persists. Do use the planner to write a note to the teacher/tutor as tutors do check them regularly.

**Question: My son had done a piece of Science homework & there was a tick before the deadline had passed. It then showed up again as not having been done?**

Sometimes homework can be re-issued if it has not been done satisfactorily. Students should be aware of it but we usually follow up with individuals if it is missing or not been done very well.

**Question: The boys have just done NFER tests are there levels & will we know the results?**

There are no national curriculum levels. We have some information about KS2 data from their Primary schools. NFER tests are for internal use to assess an individual's ability & make sure they are in the correct tutor groups etc. Individual subjects will assess the boys for a number of skills eg in English there are 8 for reading & 8 for writing. Every half term we report on how working in each skill: red, amber or green. Over time we should be able to demonstrate progress so for example they may be 50% on Amber for 4 skills, but if they can demonstrate in homework & in lessons that they are mastering these skills it will turn to Green. They may not master every skill immediately & most skills will be assessed over the year so do not expect the boys to get 100% in every skill from the beginning of the year.

**Question: How do you set students?**

We use information from the NFER tests (or Wandsworth test score before they start in Year 7), Key Stage 2 data from Primary School & teacher judgements. They will be some movement of tutor groups in Year 7 after half term. Not everyone in the same class is working at the same level & if an individual struggles to keep up they will be moved to a tutor group where they can.

**Question: I am concerned my son is not being pushed and is getting lazy?**

You can talk to his tutor or if it is in a particular subject ask for extra work from his subject teacher. We sometimes see although work is completed there is no depth to it & the boys think they have done enough. You could encourage them to do a little bit more.

**Question: Can they go back to homework if they haven't done very well?**

Yes, they should be able to take a quiz again. If the whole class has struggled the teacher may reset the task after additional class work.

In English, once the work is marked it is returned to the students and they are expected to rewrite it and put in corrections, We call it redrafting or Green Pen marking because the students do it with a green pen but it doesn't really matter what colour they use it is just a standard here.

We also use Peer assessment whereby they identify mistakes in a friend's work and try to encourage them to improve their own work.

**Question: What are late detentions & are they fair, my son missed out on an after school activity because he had a late detention?**

There are consequences of being late, it is disruptive to the rest of the class & they may miss the start of the lesson etc. It is good practice to arrive on time & although we recognise sometimes boys are late because of buses or for reasons that are not their fault we have a system where they should attend a late detention during their lunch time that day to make up the time & for them to understand. If they miss the lunchtime detention they will then have to do 20minutes after school and will be picked up by the duty teacher that day. It may seem harsh when they start in Year 7 but the aim is to be consistent and get the boys to understand they need to be on time.