

Parent Group Meeting

Wednesday 8th May 2013

Matters discussed	Action
<p>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Mr Beneke (PAB), Head of Science & Fiona Wilkins (FW), Marketing & Communications Manager.</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 Design Technology lessons and Year 8 English/Geography.</p> <p>PARENTS EVENING- Year 8 Parents Evening took place on 1st May and Year 7 Parents Evening will take place on 15th May from 4.30-7pm. Parents who have attended Secondary School Parents Evenings before shared some tips.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Bring your son and get him to guide you to his teachers 2) Teachers are grouped by subject. Some teachers (eg art, PE, Languages will teach more than one class in a year group so may have 60+ parents to see) 3) Target teachers of core subjects (English, Maths & Science) first. 4) Try not to join long queues but look for another teacher (some teachers are located in the drama studio – this is all shown on a map you are given when you arrive) 5) Target teachers where your son is not achieving his Minimum Target Levels 6) Leave your son's tutor until the end (unless they aren't busy!). 7) If you don't manage to see a particular teacher during parents' evening, send a note in the planner or send your son in with his Parents Evening Comments sheet to ask the teacher to write a note about his performance. <p>PARENT COMMENT: <i>Can teachers try not to make comparisons between siblings. It can be upsetting for the younger brother to be made to feel they are always following in their big brother's footsteps!</i></p> <p>COMMUNICATING with STAFF – Parents raised the issue of how best to communicate with staff. Many expressed a preference for emailing and asked how to find staff's email addresses/telephone extensions.</p> <p>PAB explained it is not College policy to give out staff email addresses to parents and that many teachers do not have a telephone extension. In most cases there is just one phone in a department office and as teachers spend the majority of the day in their classroom they are not easy to reach by phone. The best way to make contact with staff is either telephone or email the college general number/email and ask for your message to be passed on to the named teacher. Leave your email address & a phone number and the teacher should reply usually within 48 hrs but please be aware sometimes staff are out on courses, trips etc. Many staff are happy to use email. If you are unsure who to talk to, your son's tutor should be your first port of call.</p> <p>NFER TESTS – Year 7 boys will sit these tests on Friday 10th May. There are 3 papers and they are marked externally. You should be informed of your son's mark in each test which will be from 1 (low) to 10 (high). The NFER tests are fed into National statistics and used to set Minimum Target Levels. The College uses them to some degree to organise tutor groups but by this stage in Year 7, in the majority of cases, teachers have built up a better picture of a student's capability through classwork so it would be unusual to move on the May NFER data alone.</p> <p>END OF YEAR EXAMS –take place at the end of June and this marks the end of the Year 7/8 coursework. After the exams some teachers will begin on next year's syllabus or use the time to develop different skills, eg Science they may focus on experimental skills in advance of next year.</p> <p>ENRICHMENT WEEK – takes place the last week of term Tuesday 16th July to Monday 22nd July. Boys are divided up into House teams and will spend a day in each faculty (eg Science, Sport, Maths & IT Humanities, Art, English & MFL) undertaking special themed activities (last year it was the Olympics). Sports Days will also take place during this week (see below).</p>	<p>PAB/FW to tell Principals</p>

SPORTS DAYS – Please note there has been a change of dates from those published on the Calendar (from the beginning of June to July). Instead Sports Days will take place during Enrichment week at Tooting Bec Athletic track from 8.45am to 1pm. Students will be expected to make their own way to the Athletic track and will be registered and dismissed at 1pm from there. Letters will be sent home explaining these arrangements and in case of difficulty parents should contact the school and other travel arrangements from the College will be made. Parents are welcome to come along to watch & support their sons.

Wednesday 17th July – Years 9&10

Thursday 18th July – Years 7&8

PARENTS COMMENTS: They didn't know about the House System and asked whether any other House events took place during the year.

PAB explained the House system was new this year following a successful trial with the Purple Ties last year. The idea was to mix boys up away from their tutor groups and encourage (and reward) participation as much as sporting ability. As parents know we have a number of very able young sportsmen in a variety of different disciplines but the idea is that sports day should be to encourage everyone to take part rather than being just a competition between the very sporty boys. This year the House competitions had been mainly sporting (eg volleyball, football & rugby competitions have already taken place) but as the system develops it could be extended to other disciplines.

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. We are looking into establishing a more robust system of emailing parents letters & newsletters in the future.

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