

Parents' Forum Minutes

6th October 2016

1. E-safety Evening

Feedback was sought from any parents who had attended the recent E-safety Evening and asked whether it is something the school should continue to do.

The parents who attended found the evening very informative and useful.

It was agreed that the E-safety evening would still be held every year (January/February time) with an open invite sent to all parents.

2. Students' Progress – Key Dates

Parents were reminded of the following key dates for this academic year:-

Progress Review Day	Monday 10 th December (12.30pm-7.30pm)
Y7 Parents' Evening	8 th June
Y8 Parents'/Options Evening	2 nd March
Y9 Parents'/Options Evening	19 th January
Y10 Parents' Evening	23 rd March
Y11 Parents' Evening	16 th February

For the benefit of Y7 parents, it was explained that Progress Review Day is when parents book a 10 minute slot, at a time to suit, to discuss their child's progress with their Form Tutor. School is closed to normal lessons – students attend for their appointment only.

Parents were reminded that if they ever want an update on how their child is doing, or have any concerns, they can always contact the child's Head of Year.

3. Curriculum Evenings

Curriculum Evenings are held throughout the year to keep parents up to date on curriculum changes and also to inform parents of any new initiatives.

The evenings for Year 10 and Year 11 parents have already taken place and the Year 7 Curriculum Evening is scheduled for 13th October.

Year 8 and Year 9 parents have the Options Evenings instead of a Curriculum Evening, but as we move towards a 3 year KS4 we may introduce a Curriculum Evening in Year 9 in future years.

A parent expressed concern that there is some anxiety amongst Year 9 students regarding the curriculum changes, which are coming into effect next year, and said that students would benefit from more explanation of the changes. The school acknowledged this and agreed to build something in to the presentation on Options Evening.

Parents who attended the Y10 and Y11 evenings said they were very informative and well attended.

Mr Thomson explained that the Year 8 students will begin their option process next week, beginning with an assembly and then a straw poll.

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4. 'Parent View'

Parents were encouraged to go onto the OFSTED site and complete the Parent View Survey, as parental feedback is very valuable to us.

To access the survey parents need to Google 'Ofsted Parent View' and follow the registration instructions. The whole process should only take 5 minutes. There is also a link to the survey on our website www.flhs.org.uk

5. Morning Punctuality

Thanks were expressed to all parents, as there has been a significant improvement in morning punctuality. A 'warning' bell now rings at 8.34am with the bell ringing again at 8.35am. Students who are not in their form room when the second bell rings are given a 'late' mark.

6. Exam Results 2016

Summer 2016 saw another positive set of results with 70% students gaining 5A*-C including English and Maths. This is the old measure and schools are now judged against the Progress 8 score, however, this figure for summer 2016 isn't available at the moment.

7. Arrangements for setting students into groups

Mr Thomson explained the reasons why the Year 8 timetable had changed a couple of times at the start of the term.

A new form of setting had been suggested and was implemented, but it was not feasible due to the high numbers of students in the year group with high prior attainment. We therefore returned to the old settings. This is where the issues occurred.

We believe that we have now got the students into the correct sets to enable them all to make the best possible progress. Data has been used very carefully to make sure that this is accurate.

A parent queried that if the Literacy lesson is now an English lesson do the students still have time to read. Mr Thomson assured parents that they do, and the reading is now more targeted and includes comprehension.

A Year 8 parent said that the fragmented start de-motivated her daughter. Mr Thomson apologised and explained he had spoken to a number of parents about this issue. The school tried something new, which didn't work, we realised where the issue was and it won't happen again.

8. AOB

A query was raised about the change to the PE kit.

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It was explained that the old PE kit wasn't fit for purpose over the winter months. The new kit is more stylish and made of better material. Parents agreed that they liked the look and feel of the new kit.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 6pm on Thursday 9th February.