

Feedback information for parents**Update from school on progress made since last Parents' Forum meeting in June:****Communication with Parents:**

The website: This has been improved and is getting better. All trips, for example, are now on there.

Newsletter: Changes include putting dates near the front, and encouraging all departments to celebrate any good news (not just sport!) The newsletter works, as it's regular and quick. Some news items then go onto the website.

Parent Forum: This has been a big step forward, and we will continue to adjust this as necessary.

Parents Evenings: The school has introduced a new 'settling in' parents evening for both Year 7 and Year 12. The newer time slot of 4.15 - 7pm also seems to work well (rather than 7 - 9pm).

Suggestions / comments from parents at the meeting:

- Overall parents were very positive about the newsletter. They like it, think it's colourful and agree that it also works on phones.
- As parents evenings often seem very chaotic, it may be useful to have a list of pupil names and appointment times made clear on the evening. This way parents would be able to see if they are next in line or not / if the teacher is overrunning, and if so, by roughly how long.
One parent was extremely positive about the parents evenings. She said it was her first state school parents evening recently and she found that every teacher she spoke to seemed to know her child.
Another parent commented on the lack of confidentiality whilst waiting. Waiting parents are often able to overhear others conversations, and although she acknowledged that sometimes you cannot pre-empt how its going to go, she wondered if there could be an opportunity to discuss more sensitive points later in private conversations?
- Parents thought that the summer term was too late for the Year 10 parents evening. By this time pupils are already well into their GCSE's with some coursework / assessments already completed. If information came earlier, parents would be in a better position to help motivate / encourage their children.

(Bill Scriven explained that a tracking sheet is used during this period and progress is checked three times a year. Students are given an ATL grade in term 1 and target grades in terms 2 and 3. A target grade was previously given in term 1 as well, but staff tended to be too generous with this, hence the introduction of an ATL grade instead.)
- It was suggested that the work experience evening could also be earlier in the year.

Feedback information for parents**Discussion Points:****General:**

- Parents said that they would like more information on the changes that are happening to GCSE's from 2017 for each subject area. Even though things are not yet set in stone, they would like the school to communicate to all parents about what the school does know so far. Then they would like to see this information on the website. Bill Scriven agreed this was a good point.
- One parent asked if there is an archive of the letters sent home on the school website? Whilst it was confirmed that every single letter to do with trips does go onto the website now, it was unclear if all letters and newsletters did.
- Another parent asked if it would be possible to supply school handbooks to those students joining the school later...e.g. from the Steiner school in Yr 10? (One similar to the Year 7 handbook would work well.)
- Parents would also still like a list of who to contact at school for what. They would like to see this put onto the website. One parent did comment that she found the school office fantastic with regard to this.

From Agenda – 'Feedback & Marking':

Bill Scriven explained that during the last couple of years, teacher training at All Saints has been focusing on student autonomy / getting more children self-motivated. The school is using CEF (Challenge, Engagement & Feedback) and KASH (knowledge, attitude, skills and habits) in their Teaching and Learning model in the hope of achieving this. Educational research shows that 'quality of feedback' has a significant effect on progress, so this year the school is focusing on the feedback element of the model. With this in mind, the school is therefore looking into the idea of **marking less, but marking more in-depth** and if possible **they would like parents to feedback their thoughts on this** to the school (using the parent forum email address).

- At the recent ATL Awards night it was acknowledged that awards went predominantly to girls. Girls walked away with the majority of the awards, by miles. Therefore it is recognised that one of the main challenges is how to motivate boys!
One parent said that she was aware that some boys work at home, but not at school as it's not seen as 'cool'.
Suggestions from parents present included:
Target boys early on (Year 7 onwards), by encouraging them to be readers at Mass for example.
Introduce an Awards night specifically aimed at boys.
- Vic Klays also informed parents that mental health issues are increasingly becoming a big problem in schools, and are particularly evident higher up in the school, with serious mental health problems affecting over 30 plus students in the 6th form.

Feedback information for parents

Specific questions / queries raised by parents prior to the meeting:	School response / proposal:
<p>How many toilets are there on the lower site and what is the policy about going to the toilet in lesson time?</p> <p>Feedback from some parents present suggested that lots of children do not use toilets during the day at all, as they find it intimidating. This is particularly a problem on the lower site with the boys' toilets, where quite a few boys tend to congregate.</p> <p>There is also the issue of cleanliness of the toilets and the availability of soap?</p> <p>How do lower site pupils communicate or see teachers if they need to (outside of lessons?)</p> <p>There is concern that some children do not have a regular form tutor. This has big disadvantages for the child in terms of continuity and getting to know the child well, and it is particularly unsettling for those children just starting out at All Saints.</p>	<p>There are two blocks per gender, plus a number of single staff toilets. The general rule is “no – unless desperate”. The teacher makes this judgment and in 99 per cent of cases it is the right judgment, but there is obviously room for error here. If there is a medical reason, there is no problem. These children have a card and are also able to use staff toilets.</p> <p>The senior management team was not aware of these problems, but will now look into regularly monitoring the boy's toilets at lower site. It will be a case of breaking habits through adult presence.</p> <p>Students are provided with more soap, towels and toilet rolls than they could ever possibly need. However these items all still disappear. This is especially true in the girl's toilets.</p> <p>The senior management team appreciates that this can be quite hard with staff running between the two sites. Pupils can pre-arrange something with the teacher or they can leave a message at the main office. Planners can also be used via the form tutors, as these are looked at on a regular basis.</p> <p>The school sees form tutors as an essential and positive role, and knows the impact a successful relationship can have. However, there are complications because of teachers needing to be at upper and lower sites at different times of the week. Unfortunately therefore, the school cannot ensure that every form has its own form tutor every day of the week due to timetabling. This is a real downside of having two sites. Three non-teaching staff including a Pastoral Leader are used as form tutors in order to help alleviate this problem.</p>

Feedback information for parents

What is the criteria for the awards at the ATL Awards night? Particularly with reference to the 'Commitment to Work and Effort' Award?

What about extracurricular activities?

Parents present said that there doesn't seem to be any opportunities for them to capture their child's interest prior to the Cabaret / School Production – to encourage them to audition etc:

Agenda for next meeting:

- Homework
- Additional items to be determined later by suggestion.

If you do have any comments / suggestions on any of the above, or on any other aspect of school life, then please do email us your thoughts on our dedicated email address:

parentforum@allsaints.york.sch.uk

Thank you,

The Parent Forum Team

The criteria for the Awards system were presented in written format to parents at the meeting. The Year 7-13 'Commitment to Work and Effort' reward in particular is presented to the 'Top 10 pupils per year – based on average ATL score from summer report'.

These appear on the website and pupils are informed about them in assembly / form groups. They are also put into the newsletters.

The Cabaret / School Production dates are put onto the school calendar.