



Update on progress made since our last Parents' Forum:

Parent Consultations

At the previous meeting, parents discussed the difficulties they had encountered at parents' consultations. These included; waiting times, overlapping and missing appointment slots, navigating and moving around the school buildings and confidentiality issues.

Outcome: One parent who has taught in Spain told the forum that the parents' consultation at her school involved meeting only with the form tutor. Mr Scriven said he wants parents/guardians to be able to meet with all teachers but that brings challenges and Mr Klays explained that in the past the school have tried many different ways of doing this. One parent suggested a larger room to allow for greater physical space but again Mr Klays suggested that when appointments were in the hall it could be very noisy.

In future, all teachers should have a list of students, their appointment times and these will then be crossed off in turn. If parents/guardians have any further concerns that require more time they can make an additional appointment.

Toilets Issues

At last term's meeting, concerns were raised that some students find using the toilets at break times intimidating because some other students congregate in them so will be put off using them. This was reported to be a particular problem in the Lower School boys' toilets.

Outcome: Mr Scriven has been talking to students about this issue and has carried out inspections in the Lower School boys' toilets but so far hasn't found a problem. With the assistance of the 'Learning Leaders' he will continue to talk to students about the toilets and try to find ways to encourage students to give feedback.

Discussion point : 'Rewards and Sanctions'

Mr Klays asked the parents about anything they would like to discuss about the Rewards and Sanctions at All Saints. One parent pointed out to Mr Klays that the information on the My Child at School website (MCAS) is not the same as on the School website . There were inconsistencies with credits, attendance, ATL scores etc.

Parents reported that their children had been refused the Behaviour for Learning (BFL) trip because of time off school for illness. Despite making contact with the school this was still upheld. The students involved were hard working with extremely high ATL and attainment scores.

Outcome: Mr Klays thought that this was no longer the situation and that although the School is trying to encourage maximum attendance, students shouldn't be penalised for time off school with genuine sickness. Further investigation with 'Senior Leadership Team' will take place and this will be reported at the next meeting.



Other Issues:	School response / proposal:
<p>Parent Evening for Year 10:</p> <p>It was suggested an earlier parents' consultation would be beneficial for this year group as they start their GCSE course.</p> <p>Mr Scriven reported that this would not change as an initial progress report is released earlier on in Year 10 with an Attitude to Learning score (ATL). If this score changes, contact will be made with parents/guardians. However, a parent commented that Year 10 students have a GCSE examination in summer which they start to study in Year 9. One parent said that she had been offered a consultation at the Year 11 parents evening for that subject. Another parent commented that they hadn't had one for their child studying Performing Arts. It was also reminded by a parent that students from the Steiner School join All Saints in Year 10 and those parents may welcome an opportunity to meet the school and teachers.</p> <p>Year 10 Work Experience:</p> <p>Parents suggested an earlier student/parent evening for Year 10 work experience would be beneficial which would allow students longer to consider and find a placement.</p> <p>Changes to the A level and GCSE Course and Examination:</p> <p>It was acknowledged by parents and staff that the changes to the above are difficult to understand and navigate as the 20 page guidance document produced by the Department for Education is very lengthy. This can be found on the school website as well as the revised GCSE grading structure.</p> <p>Letters to parents:</p> <p>Parents suggested it would be useful to obtain previous/past letters via the school website.</p>	<p>Mr Scriven suggested that he will have a further discussion with the 'Senior Leadership Team' (SLT) and this will be fed back to the forum in due course.</p> <p>Mr Klays advised that this will now take place sometime in the summer term of Year 9.</p> <p>Mr Klays advised that a summary was being worked on by staff for parents and will be made available on the school website in due course.</p> <p>Mr Klays informed that an archive of letters sent to parents are available on the website except where those letters are personal to an individual student.</p>



School Handbook:

A parent with a child who started the school in Year 10 expressed that it would have been useful to have been given a copy of the school handbook which contains all the relevant and useful information about being a student at All Saints and is given out to all new students commencing in Year 7.

Marking work

As previously reported, latest educational research suggests that 'quality of feedback' has a significant effect on progress and with this in mind the school are looking into this idea of marking less but with greater quality, depth and meaningful feedback for the student. Mr Klays reported that he had carried out a 'Well-being Survey' with staff and found that some of the English teachers are under exceptional pressure with the high volume of marking.

A parent asked about how this could work in Mathematics. Mr Scriven explained that in Mathematics, a student's understanding can be assessed using checks from past tests taken, doing end of unit tests and therefore more time will be allocated to do these.

Contact with school and expected response times

One parent who had quite a serious issue with her child at school a few weeks ago asked how long parents/guardians should expect a call back from a member of staff when they have a concern. She explained she had first contacted the school on Wednesday but didn't get a call back until Monday. Mr Scriven advised that ideally within 48 hours, but acknowledged that sometimes this does and doesn't work partly due to the two site issue and relaying messages to staff between both sites.

Another parent suggested a telephone number that parents could call where calls would be screened for their urgency so that serious problems could be answered more urgently.

Another parent expressed how confusing it can be to understand who the best point of contact would be if they have any issues.

Mr Klays reported that Mr Flanagan is working on a handbook which will be given out to students who join the school in later years.

Mr Scriven talked about this idea being piloted in the English department. Key pieces of work will be marked with quality and then tracked. They will welcome any feedback or questions from parents regarding this using the parent forum e-mail address or by letter handed in to the school office.

Mr Scriven advised that these issues are still being discussed and "thought about" and it was work in progress.



Awards Ceremony

Concerns were raised at the last meeting about the disproportionate allocation of awards given to girls with some students gaining several awards and departmental prizes. This was again raised by a parent at this term's meeting and the discussions are ongoing. One parent commented that the rewards are 'skewed' towards girls.

Mr Scriven explained at the last meeting the criteria for gaining an award and because the awards go to those students with the highest ATL scores the girls always outperform the boys. There are also some recognisable and well documented key differences between boys and girls with reference to behaviour and performance at school.

Discussions were about how to enable and motivate boys more in school. One parent suggested without penalising the girls could there be a modification with the criteria to reflect those differences.

One parent suggested that perhaps some students are so good and capable that perhaps it is easier to select them to help and do things, but perhaps thought could be given to encourage less confident and able students to participate more.

One parent suggested that this disparity was similar to what he had experienced in the work place, as the women often outperform the men by a similar ratio.

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 Senior Management of the school are working on how the Awards Ceremony should be done in the future. They would welcome any feedback from parents regarding this which can be sent on the parent forum e-mail address parentforum@allsaints.york.sch.uk or by letter via either School Office.