

**Feedback information for parents****Update on progress made since last Parents' Forum in March:**

In response to parents suggestions, the format / content of the newsletter has now been changed, making for a more coherent read. Key dates have been put together, contributions from different departments have been asked for, and where they are known about, out of school achievements have also been included. Retirement announcements will also be made via the newsletters in future (but not maternity).

Several changes have also been made to the website, but this is an ongoing process. Bill Scriven meets up each half term with a team within the school in order to work specifically on the website, so this will continue to evolve.

**Discussion point: 'Ideas on how we could improve communication between parents / school in the future, and get more parents involved / contributing'**

- It was thought that parents are perhaps reluctant to email the forum as they may be worried about where information might go / who will read it etc: Also parents may be put off coming along to meetings for fear of being pressurised into getting involved. It was also acknowledged that parents may not understand the difference between the PTFA and the Parents' Forum, so this should really be highlighted.
- Questionnaires seem to work well, with the last questionnaire sent out to parents attracting well over 200 responses in the first week. It was therefore suggested that topic based questionnaires could be used in the future, in order to gain feedback from parents on particular issues (e.g. homework, communication methods, the ATL awards system etc:)
- It was also suggested that there should be a different format to meetings in the future. Specific topics that the school believes is of interest to parents (based upon questionnaire responses and comments) could be announced and then parents would be encouraged to sign up to come along to 'open forum' type events where they would have an opportunity to have their say. Both medium (e.g. ATL awards system) and longer term issues (e.g. new school) could be discussed in this way.
- A later evening time slot was also suggested for future meetings (7pm onwards) in the hope that more people are able to attend.
- Finally it was thought that it would be a good idea to target new Year 7 parents through a 'Parental Forum' presence at lower school events in the Autumn term.

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Other Issues:	School response / proposal:
<p><b>ParentPay:</b></p> <p>Are there plans to, or could this be extended in the future to cover other things – payments for school trips for example? This could potentially save both time and money for parents / the school, but parents should still be given the option of paying by traditional methods if this suits them better.</p> <p><b>Making school more affordable:</b></p> <p>Uniform - navy blue skirts seem hard to come by in the shops in York, especially in larger sizes. Is it possible to have a specific example on the website stating where they can be bought and how much they cost (parents can then decide whether to choose this option, or look for similar / possibly cheaper alternatives themselves in chain stores, supermarkets or online).</p> <p>Revision guides / textbooks - could a list of <b>essential</b> books required for the different exam courses be listed on the website as soon as these are known (together with costs). This would help parents with planning / budgeting.</p> <p><b>Study Space:</b></p> <p>Could study spaces be made available within school for shy children / those who struggle with social confidence? The libraries are often full and very busy, especially at lunchtime. Are there other spaces where students can study between lessons, especially at Upper Site?</p> <p><b>ATL rewards system and attendance records:</b></p> <p>There is a feeling that the ATL reward system works against those children who work hard but are then absent due to genuine reasons – meaning that they cannot then attend end of term trips. Could allowances not be made for genuine illness / reasons for absence?</p>	<p>Unfortunately this cannot be sorted out quickly due to impending LA software changes, but it is certainly something that can be looked at in the future.</p> <p>Girls are offered the choice of either skirts or trousers to wear. Specific school uniform retailers can be given, but costs do tend to be higher for these items from this type of outlet.</p> <p>This is something the school will look into.</p> <p>Libraries are already available on both sites for this purpose, together with smaller spaces that are overseen by specific members of staff. Vic Klays will check that these are not getting too overcrowded at times when they are in use.</p> <p>Bill Scriven / Vic Klays will speak to Mr Flannigan about this.</p>

**Feedback information for parents**

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](mailto:parentforum@allsaints.york.sch.uk)

Thank you,

The Parent Forum Team