

Parent Group Meeting

Wednesday 6th March 2013

| Matters discussed | Action |
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| <p>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Mr Beneke (PAB), Head of Science, Fiona Wilkins (FW), Marketing & Communications Manager, Ms Baum (Head of Year 7 Blue Ties), Caroline Dowdell, Parent Governor</p> <p>REPORTS – Mr Beneke explained that reports are sent home at the end of each term. In Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) boys are given Minimum Target Levels (MTL) based on their NFER test scores and a Commitment to Learning Score. The autumn & spring term reports reflect current attainment levels eg the Science Department usually grades each student based on an average from assessed pieces of work. The report at the end of the year is normally based on end of year tests or exams.</p> <p>MINIMUM TARGET LEVELS (MTLs) – Are reported as a Level (number) eg 4, 5, 6 and a sub level (a,b,c) eg 4a, 4b, 4c (a being the highest sub level, b - middle and c lowest). Students are expected to make one level of progress per year eg 4b in Y7 should make 5b in Y8 and by Y9 should make 6b. At the end of Y8 the MTLs will change in line with progress and expectations (less reliance on NFER test scores at this stage).</p> <p>COMMITMENT TO LEARNING GRADE – This grade is numbered 1-5 and is linked to the MTL so if the student has achieved above their Minimum Target level (eg predicted 4b, achieved 4a) they will receive 1 for their Commitment to Learning. If they are achieving their MTLs they will receive a Level 2 and if they are below, a Level 3 or below. If the student scores a Level 3 or below it means they are not progressing as they should be and as a parent you should be asking questions.</p> <p>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – Will take place on 20th March. You will be given a 15minute slot with your son's tutor and you will have the chance to discuss his progress so far in terms of MTLs and Commitment to Learning grades in all subjects. Any issues should be highlighted by the tutor and you should ask questions if you have any concerns.</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS- What happens if you can't attend Personal Development Day?</i> <i>ANSWER: You should try and attend wherever possible. If you know you are restricted because of working hours send a note in the planner asking for an appointment that fits in with your schedule or ask to meet with the tutor on another day or have a discussion by phone. Try and be flexible!</i></p> <p>PARENTS EVENING- Parents Evenings are very busy and you may have to wait to see some teachers. We have tried different systems including giving people time slots but this does not seem to work so we keep it simple and encourage parents to try and manage their time by avoiding sitting in long queues. A top tip is to look at you son's Commitment to Learning grades and target the teachers of subjects where he is not achieving a Level 1 or 2. Make his tutor one of the last people to see as by then you should have a good overall picture of your son's progress and any problem areas that you may have identified. If there are problems they should have already been discussed at Personal Development Day.</p> <p>Year 8 Parents Evening is 1st May Year 7 Parents Evening 15th May</p> <p>NFER TESTS – for Year 7 take place in October and in May. This year they will take place on Thursday 9th May. They are not really tests that the boys can revise for but they should come to school well rested and in the right frame of mind to do the test.</p> <p>EBACC TESTS — These are sat by Year 9 students (w/c 29th April) in all EBACC subjects –English, Maths, Science. MFL, Geography/History.</p> <p>KEY STAGE 4 – In KS4 reports change to reflect predicted GCSE grades. It is not so easy to see progress being made over the two years so the College is considering a proposal to introduce grading to reflect the levels boys are working at and progress they are making.</p> | |

QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS:

HOMEWORK IN Y8: *My son doesn't seem to have as much homework in Year 8, is this right?*

Answer from PAB:

No! Homework should be the same in Year 7 & 8 -- about an hour a day but will depend on what is set by individual subject teachers. Your son should write down all homework assignments in his planner even if they are worksheets to be submitted on line. If your son has nothing written down you should telephone the college and leave a message for his tutor. Mr Beneke mentioned that as boys get older they learn to manage their time and may do some homework during lunchtime, in tutor time or during lesson time if they have finished the work assigned for that period. They can also be given a longer assignment to be done over two weeks which they may complete in one sitting eg at the weekend which can account for why there appears to be no 'science' homework this week.

CATCHING UP MISSED LESSONS: *I am concerned my son is missing too many lessons because he is being asked to represent the school at football, rugby & athletics?*

Answer from LB:

Responsibility for catching up work and homework from missed lessons lies with the pupil. They should ask a friend or ask the teacher at the beginning of the next lesson (or sooner if possible). The sports department tries not to select the same boys all the time so they shouldn't miss more than one or two lessons each week and match days are varied so it is not always the same lessons being missed. Parents with concerns can talk to the tutor. As a school we encourage participation in extra-curricular sport, activities and competitions, however if there are concerns about an individual's attendance or attainment, their sporting participation may be curtailed. We find sporting participation is on the whole positive and those boys who are chosen to represent the school are engaged and keen to keep up with their academic work as well.

SUPPORT FOR NEW BOYS – Boys who join during the year will be buddied up with a 'friend' in the same tutor group who is chosen to be a positive influence. We have found boys integrate most quickly if they follow their tutor group as much as possible so that they make friends and feel part of the school. If there are issues with English as an Additional Language (EAL), their level of English will be assessed and they will be taken out of one or two lessons a week for EAL classes at the appropriate level. They will also receive support in class from a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) where necessary. Parents with concerns should talk to their son's tutor or ask to meet with the Head of Year if they have particular concerns or their son is unhappy or worried and can not express these concerns themselves to an adult at school.