

Parent Group Meeting

Tuesday 8th May 2012

Matters discussed	Action
<p>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Mr Beneke (PAB), Head of Year 8, Mr Beveridge (MB) Deputy Head of Year 7, Mrs Wilkins (FW), Marketing & Communications Manager, Mrs Dowdell, Parent Governor.</p> <p>Y8 PARENTS EVENING – Mr Beneke thanked all parents who attended. He explained we had tried a new seating arrangement which moved tutors into the drama studio in an attempt to ease congestion in the main hall. However there was still a bottleneck around the teachers who have more than one group in particular, art, drama & English.</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS – the queuing system was not always clear, particularly for popular teachers. Parents suggested it would be clearer if the lines ran down the hall so people knew which line to join. They also suggested having signage, eg tutors in drama studio, & subject areas, as it is difficult to interpret the layout map when the hall is full of parents.</i></p> <p>YEAR 7 PARENTS EVENING – Mr Mason is trialling a system whereby parents have been given time slots to try and stagger the arrival/departure times of parents through the evening. He wanted to stress that this is for advice only and it is most important that parents try and attend when they could even if they couldn't make the suggested time slots.</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS – this had been made clear in a letter that had gone home.</i></p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS TO ATTEND – Mr Beneke wanted to stress that it was in the best interest of students and their parents to attend parents evening if possible as the next timetabled opportunity for face to face meetings with teachers is not until October.</p> <p>COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS – We discussed the need to provide additional support for parents who have English as an additional language. One idea proposed was a leaflet containing instructions for parents on how to communicate with the school or ask for translations written in the most popular languages. This leaflet could be given to students when they join the college and made available on the school website.</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS – generally they felt that parents in this position would either bring a friend or ask their child to translate but it would be a good idea in principle.</i></p> <p>NFER TESTS – For Years 7&8 will take place Tuesday 22nd- Friday 25th May. For Year 8 students it is unlikely that the results of these tests will have much impact on setting & tutor groups. However it would be used to set Minimum Target Levels (MTL) next year. For Year 7s there was some movement in tutor groups after the tests in October and there could potentially be more movement but only if observations from teachers fitted the test results. It is generally recognised that boys are settled in tutor groups and are not moved unless there is a change.</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS – it is useful to know about these tests to encourage their sons to revise and prepare for tests.</i></p> <p>ONLINE PAYMENTS</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS – Parents raised the issue of making payments on line. They recognised EBC was one of the first schools to introduce a biometric system to ensure a cash free system however they would like to be able to make payments online. In their experience primary schools had introduced systems such as Parent Pay and it was generally easy to use as.</i></p> <p>FRONTER ACCESS – A review of the use of technology is underway in the college and Mrs Wilkins has submitted previous feedback from the Parent group that parents would like to be able to log in to monitor their son's progress.</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS – Parents would welcome a log in as increasing amounts of homework appear to be set online. They were keen to keep an eye on deadlines for Coursework etc and encourage their sons to complete homework in good time.</i></p>	<p>PAB to feedback to Y7 team and Senior Management team (SMT)</p> <p>PAB & FW to look into producing a leaflet offering translations</p> <p>Mrs Dowdell to raise it at Governors meeting</p> <p>PAB & FW to keep parents informed about progress</p>

WET WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS — Mr Beneke wanted to point out that in the case of wet weather such as we have been experiencing over the last few weeks, there is a college wet break plan which ensures all students can go spend lunchtime indoors. Some boys got caught out in a torrential downpour last week and we also experienced flooding in the playground.

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS – boys often prefer to stay outside during breaks.

SPORTS PARTICIPATION – Mr Beveridge explained that it is the responsibility of boys to catch up work missed due to taking part in sports matches. However he did say PE staff communicate and try not to use the same boys for say both rugby and football teams. They also try and organise matches during PE lessons and on the whole staff are supportive and ensure boys do not fall behind. Also in previous years the policy had been that if a boys attendance wasn't high enough (particularly in Year 11) they would not be allowed to do extra-curricular sporting activities as they had already missed enough school.

SPORTS DAYS – Dates of sports days are different to those advertised. They have been changed to try and ensure each year group has its sports day on a games afternoon where possible to cause the minimum of lesson disruption. Dates to be confirmed shortly but are likely to be:

Year 7: Wednesday 13th June

Year 8: Monday 18th June

Year 9: Tuesday 12th June

Year 10: Tuesday 19th June

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS: They would welcome the opportunity to attend sports days.

Mrs Wilkins confirmed this would again be the case and the new dates would be put on the website, in Bevin News and auto-text reminders would be sent out nearer the time.

SPORTS ROTATION – PE is taught in 8-week rotations, so students will start the year playing rugby and football but in the summer term will move on to cricket/athletics/tennis etc. Clubs will continue before and after school but some are seasonal, for example the football & rugby posts have been taken down at Fishponds so boys should check with coaches to see if these clubs are still on.

SWIMMING – Mr Beveridge explained that there were plenty of opportunities for boys to learn to swim such that no boy should leave the college unable to swim 25m. Swimming was one of the PE rotations and all boys are welcome to attend the beginner/intermediate swimming clubs on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. There were also additional sessions for the advanced swimmers but boys are invited to attend these sessions as they must be able to swim lengths rather than widths.

SCHOOL TRIPS – Year 7 trip to Boreatton Park was a great success. One day in particular was very wet but they were able to swap activities to take into account the weather. Year 8 are off to Devon on 11-14th May and are hoping to be luckier with the weather.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION – OTT (Over The Top), set in the Trenches of World War I will take place on 11/12th July. Once again a number of boys from Years 7&8 will be involved in the chorus. The drama department has asked for help from parents with the set and with costumes. In particular they will need help dressing the boys during the production as we are using authentic uniforms that will need to be taken care of during performances.

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS – Suggest mentioning it to the parents of boys involved as they will probably be more than happy to help on the evening.

Parents to remind boys about being sensible & going inside if it rains.

FW to update parents as soon as Sports Day dates are confirmed

FW to feedback to drama department to include request on any letters that are sent home to participants & include in Bevin News etc