

# Parent Forum Meeting

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Matters discussed	Action
<p>In attendance from Ernest Bevin College: Ms C. Swift (Vice Principal), Fiona Wilkins (FW), Marketing &amp; Communications Manager, Mr Adam Razaq (Head of Year 7), Caroline Dowdell, Vice Chair of Governors and Mr Neil McCarthy (Vulnerable Pupil lead) &amp; Ms R. Sheikh (Principal) also introduced themselves.</p> <p><i>Parents present indicated they have children primarily in Year 7 &amp; 8</i></p> <p><b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:</b> FW thanked parents for attending and explained there would be two short presentations: one about Online Safety, the other about the new Target Setting. There would also be opportunities for parents to ask questions.</p> <p><b>WEBSITE:</b> Following feedback from parents at the last coffee morning, a lot of work had been done on the new website and the My Ed app to ensure information was up to date and easy for parents to find. The old website was taken offline at half term which hopefully removed some of the confusion as that was no longer being updated. Curriculum and Year pages on the college website were shown.</p> <p><b>Q: A parent welcomed the changes but pointed out that the KS3 Science Curriculum Guides were still out of date and mentioned homework on Fronter and Doodle.</b></p> <p><b>ONLINE SAFETY:</b> FW gave a short presentation about Online Safety for Parents. Handouts were available with resources for parents to take home. All these resources are available on the college website under Online Safety page. If parents have concerns, they should contact the college. Mr Sullivan is the Assistant Principal and Safeguarding Lead and incidents of concern should be reported to him or the Head of Year/tutor.</p> <p><b>TARGET SETTING:</b> Presentation by CS explaining the new target setting and the rationale behind them. She explained the target grades are based on KS2 data and are set for each year but should form a 'flight path' to GCSE grades in the new 9-1 grading system. The targets are bespoke to each individual student and allows teachers to see immediately which children are of concern if they are below their target grades. The system is colour coded so RED is of concern, ORANGE is just below, YELLOW expected progress, GREEN exceeding targets, BLUE well above target. We have introduced the idea of 'GOING FOR GREEN' ie pupils should be aiming to exceed their targets.</p> <p><b>Q: Do Year 8 have targets as they didn't have them last year?</b> Year 8 had targets set last year but these are more aspirational and these new targets have been set for all years in college to replace previous targets.</p> <p><b>Q: How are you assessing the children to see how they are doing in comparison to targets? For example there was an English test last week and the maximum grade that could be attained was 3+ but my son's target grade is 5-?</b> There is a lot of work going on in departments to ensure assessments are fit for purpose and match up with the target grades. This is ongoing and for example forms a large part of the INSED day programme on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb so you should see changes over the next round of assessments and it becoming more standardised. We are doing a lot of work on improving assessments across the school.</p> <p><b>Question: Why are pupils named and in some cases shamed on noticeboards around the school. It is very public with photos etc if they are not making grades?</b> Traditionally it has been seen as a way of motivating pupils but we will feed this back</p> <p><b>Question: Could the noticeboards be used for positive feedback and praise like the 16.06 club for reading?</b></p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> New Curriculum booklets for KS3 &amp; 4 uploaded in February &amp; March 2019 and all other CGs were checked and updated as necessary.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> CS raised with Senior team &amp; It was agreed that we should stop doing this and only display the students making good progress.</p>

**ASPIRATIONAL TARGET SETTING** – CS continued the presentation and explained how the target setting was more aspirational and targets would be higher this year than in the past. The system was also able to give more forensic detailed reports so teachers as professionals can monitor their individual students progress, as a school leadership team we can monitor our groups of pupils and to push students to aspirational targets.

The system helps to boost progress by:

- Simple clear system for all, students parents, staff
- Targetting interventions – Going for Green
- Clear reports for staff so they know who needs interventions

**Question: This is very reassuring to hear but how much has been communicated to the students?**

Ms Sheikh has presented in assembly to every year group. We also had a tutor period at the beginning of term when students were given their new targets. We are changing the language around progress and targets in all lessons and feedback sessions

**Question: Year 7 Assessment Week is on the calendar but my son doesn't know about it?**

Assessments in Year 7 are done in class time and teachers would normally tell the children it is an assessed piece of work. Some assessments may be more low key than others so as not to worry the children and it may be an assessed piece of work rather than a test.

**Question: As a parent I would like to have a timetable in advance to help my child prepare for their end of year exams**

This is the aim for the end of Year assessments. Assessment week for all Years 7-10 is 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June. For the younger years, the majority of assessments will take place in normal lessons. The aim in the future is to increase the number of assessments held in the hall as per public exam conditions.

**Question: Do all departments take part in assessment week?**

For some subjects it may be an assessed piece of work or test. Subjects like Maths and Science can do this fairly easily but other subjects that are more practical for example like drama, or DT may use an assessed piece of work. Some may struggle to fit them in to one week example CS said some of her Y9 MFL speaking assessments ran into the following week because of the time needed for each pupil

**Question: My concerns about last year were no formal timetable which you are addressing but also not enough help on how to revise for tests?**

We are currently doing a lot of work with the Year 11 examination students about revision techniques such as mind maps, revision timetables, how to revise. These resources are on the website and will be on the app for all parents to see. They will be rolled out to Year 10 soon and then to all year groups so bear with us as we work on this.

**YEAR 7: Mr Razaq joined the meeting and asked parents if they had any specific concerns about Year 7.**

**Question: My child has changed classes and is finding it hard to make friends?**

We try and keep tutor group changes to a minimal when the child is settled but do try and work hard to make sure they are made to feel welcome. AR will talk to parent individually.

**Question: Behaviour points, it would be really helpful to see what lesson they receive them in as my child often forgets what it was for.**

Some departments do log this eg PE and we are doing some work to roll this out to all departments.

**Question: Behaviour Points/Detentions – are they standardised because my son just received a detention for writing an assessment in pencil which doesn't seem**

**ACTION:** Revision resources have been uploaded to the website and app. More targeted resources for lower years will be sent home nearer assessment week

**ACTION:** AR spoke to parent at end of meeting

**to be equivalent to having poor attitude or not doing work/homework.**

Yes there are clear guidelines for behaviour points, consequences etc and it should be clear to staff and pupils when a point or detention should be given. Writing in pencil is not on the list of sanctions so this seems unusual.

**Question: My Year 7 child had something like 187 questions on MATHS WATCH some at GCSE level, is that appropriate and did it mirror the scheme of work?**

Obviously that is very challenging and it was set as an extension. It is not meant to demoralise the child but see how fair they can get. There are resources on Maths Watch/GCSE pod and Canvas that you and your child can look at. There are additional resources on the Maths Department page, if they are interested in learning more.

**Question: Extra-curricular activities- do teachers take a register? I get a note in the planner for Baking Club but not for other clubs like Maths Club. Also my son turns up for some clubs and they are not on, so I get a call to come and pick him up early.**

Staff holding clubs do ask students to sign up for clubs but they don't take a formal register. We can look into doing so. Sometimes clubs do need to be cancelled at short notice but this should be communicated to the regulars at the club.

**Question: How do trip letters get sent out and how are children picked to go on trips?**

Some trips eg residential, skiing, Italy 2020 are open to all and children may need to ask the teacher organising a trip for a letter to take home. We do have the capacity on the app to send information home but have not done so routinely yet as not all parents have signed up to it. However for the Italy trip for example, we did send information and reminders via the app and there was a good take up.

Day trips from school are at the departments' discretion, some can be reward trips but the departments should keep a register of those invited.

**Question: Students are not allowed to have their phones out in lessons but my son has told me that teachers sometimes get their phones out in lessons to check messages etc?**

Staff shouldn't be getting phones out in lessons unless it is relevant to the lesson. Occasionally they may have to check messages for family emergencies etc but this is not encouraged and is hopefully the exception rather than the normal

**Question: Parent Pay- I have just had to bring in £150 in cash for my son to go on a trip, when is the college going to get online payments?**

This is in the pipeline and we hope to roll out in April.

ACTION AR to feedback to Maths department

ACTION: CS to feedback to senior team & registers at clubs are now taken. Also new Summer enrichment timetable has been uploaded to the app and website (April 2019)

ACTION: CS fed back to the Senior team who noted the aim to send more information home via the app as more parents are using it

ACTION: Senior team response: There is a lot of training going on with teachers about teaching standards and college expectations

ACTION: Parent Pay was due to be rolled out before Easter but there has been a delay. It will happen as soon as possible.