

# Parent Voice Partnership - 13th Oct 2022

What was discussed	Response and actions
<p><b><i>Y7 family breakfast, meet the tutor &amp; welcome evenings</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>breakfast morning</b> was introduced this year for Year 7 students and families on their first day of secondary school and this was very positively received and seen as a brilliant idea. For some students who might be particularly anxious about this transition or struggle with separation anxiety there was recognition that this could be a less positive experience. We also discussed that for some students they might have benefitted from getting on the bus for the first time on this day and for those not travelling into school with parents they might have been on the bus with very few other students.</li> <li>• This year's <b>meet the tutor</b> evenings for Year 7, 11 &amp; 12 students and <b>welcome evenings</b> for Years 8, 9 &amp; 10 were positively received. Parents/carers particularly commented on how excellent the presentations were and how useful it was to have this information about the year ahead. Many received copies of slides afterwards and would like to be signposted to where these might be readily available. Arriving early meant some parents found the front reception doors closed.</li> <li>• Parents/Carers raised that they would like greater clarity on what <b>tiers</b> (Foundation or Higher) students are entered for in <b>GCSE Maths, Science and Languages</b> and when this decision is made.</li> <li>• Parents/carers felt that sometimes they were <b>unsure whether students should attend evening events</b> with parents or not. Can we be more explicit about this?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ We intend to offer the Year 7 Breakfast again next year. In the letter that is sent to parents of our new Year 7 cohort, there will be an option for parents to get in touch to highlight any preemptive concerns about students who might be particularly anxious about this transition. We will also include the possibility for students to travel on the bus together to school for the first time and meet parents/carers who are travelling separately for the family breakfast at school.</li> <li>→ We intend to hold these again next year. All slides from the presentations are available on the school website and will be signposted in the upcoming eWeald to ensure all parents/carers are aware of where to access them. Front reception doors are usually open approximately 10 minutes before the start of the event.</li> <li>→ Y10 &amp; 11 presentations next year will include information on tiers. Parents/Carers will have the opportunity to discuss this with subject teachers at the Year 11 parents evening. Subject Leaders informed.</li> <li>→ In letters inviting parents to future events we will be more explicit about whether these are exclusively for parents or if students are expected to attend or welcome to attend.</li> </ul>

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## *Opportunities offered through after-school clubs*

- Parents/Carers were impressed by the **wide range of after school activities** offered this year and felt that a great deal of choice was available for all students. Recognition that this was an improvement following restrictions in the past due to Covid. The clear list shared with parents was also greatly appreciated. Discussed that sometimes it is a tight squeeze to get the late bus following sporting activities and that some students might have had an issue with getting a late bus if they had not received a late bus pass. Comment made that sometimes there has been little notice for football matches and the organisation of training can be variable although this is perhaps when run by external agencies.

- We will continue to endeavour to offer all students a wide range of opportunities beyond the school curriculum and register students' attendance. Issues raised about sporting activities shared with the PE team. Reminders also given to staff about ensuring students have a late bus pass when attending after school events. Students should also ensure that they collect one from the teacher running the activity when they are catching a late bus.

## *IT Systems and Processes*

- All parents had been able to successfully log onto **MCAS** (My Child At School) and like being able to see students' timetable and attendance. Some parents offered to be part of an MCAS trial with AMO looking at how behaviour and achievement points might also be made available to parents. More issues were experienced when logging into Talaxy which is currently being phased out.
- Parents/carers appreciated some excellent support from our **network support** department in response to IT related problems. Some expressed issues with their emails going into teachers' junk folders and therefore being missed.
- Feedback from parents/carers continues to recognise the convenience of **virtual parent consultation evenings**. Some issues with connectivity in the past and an appointment time of 4 minutes was felt to be too short. Not all parents were aware that the limit on the number of appointments that can be made with subject teachers is lifted closer to the day of appointments.
- Parents/Carers felt that the **new reporting system** was much

- As a school we will be moving away from Talaxy to the MCAS system which parents find more accessible and user friendly. There will be further information available to parents on this platform following some trials being carried out with groups of parents and feedback gathered.
- IT issues, including emails being filtered into the junk folder, can be raised with [networksupport@theweald.org.uk](mailto:networksupport@theweald.org.uk). We aim to respond to emails within 48 hours (weekdays) so if you suspect it might have been missed and filtered to the junk folder please call reception.
- We will be moving to a more user friendly platform for virtual parent consultation evenings which is currently being trialled in readiness for the Year 11 appointments in November. Appointments for this evening will be 5 minutes and seek feedback following this. Communication regarding parents evenings includes information about when the limit on appointments will be lifted.
- Alongside the report sent to parents there will be guidance on how

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<p>improved. The first will focus on ATL (attitude to learning) reflecting upon our behaviour policy of RRWS (Ready Respectful Working Safe).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following receiving a request to purchase an item on <b>Parent Pay</b> it is not always easy to find the item and the search function may need to be used to navigate around the site.</li> </ul>	<p>to interpret this information and what the ATL scores mean.</p> <p>→ Issue raised with our finance department who can be emailed on <a href="mailto:finance@theweald.org.uk">finance@theweald.org.uk</a> if you encounter an issue and they will be happy to help. We will be moving to Bromcom for this service shortly which should make purchasing items easier.</p>
<p><b><i>Wider support for our community at this time</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many parents have recognised how useful the <b>second hand school uniform shop</b> is on Facebook and would like this to be promoted further. Parents/Carers suggested that <b>books</b> students are asked to be provided with could be <b>donated</b> to the school for use by other students once they have been used that school year.</li> </ul>	<p>→ Through eWeald we will further promote the second hand school shop on social media platforms. Front reception can collect any donations of books for study in class or reading for pleasure in the library. All would be gratefully received. When Year 11 students sign out in July there are always collection points for donations of revision guides and set texts.</p>

If you would like to express interest in joining our Parent Partnership Group or raise any discussion points for the next meeting on Thursday 1st December please email [parents@theweald.org.uk](mailto:parents@theweald.org.uk).

**In attendance on Thursday 13th October:** Jemma Rigby (*Community Engagement Lead* at The Weald), Alice Lerche (*Governor*), Rachel Terry (*Vice Chair Governor & Y10 & 13 parent/carer*), Annie Lewis (*Y8 & Y10 parent/carer*), Diana Vettese (*Y9 parent/carer*), Nic Lewis (*Y7 parent/carer*), Sarah Harwood (*Y7 parent/carer*), Martin Brooks (*Y9 parent/carer*), Zsa Roggendorff (*Y10 parent/carer*), Liz Homer (*Y8 parent/carer*)

**Future meeting dates for 2022-23:** Thursday 1st December, Thursday 2nd February, Thursday 27th April & Thursday 22nd June (5pm - 6pm)