

Parent Voice Partnership - 2nd Feb 2023

What was discussed	Response and actions
<p><i>Enrichment & wider opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some parents were very pleased to hear that their child had been selected for the gym and dance display. Positive about the experiences available to students. From the letter it was a little unclear of which child this referred to. Parents/Carers and students who saw the performance of the school play, A Brief Encounter in the autumn term said it was excellent and praised the very talented actors. We discussed that when students are chosen for sporting fixtures they are often asked to ask permission of the teachers from whom they would miss lessons. Wanted further clarification on this. Parents/Carers shared really positive feedback from students on Reggie Nelson's visit. We discussed the sports celebration evening which unfortunately had to be cancelled. Parents/Carers were keen to know whether this will be rescheduled. Parents/Carers were impressed by the range of enrichment opportunities available to students through clubs and other wider experiences. We discussed that the next strike day is unfortunately scheduled for our enrichment day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The gym and dance display is a long-standing event at The Weald School which many students are involved in. The issue regarding letters being unclear about which child they are about we will address in the subject heading and try to improve moving forwards. → Praise for the production was shared with the Drama department and very gratefully received. Reminder that each year alternates between a drama production and a drama and music collaboration. → It is students' responsibility to contact teachers to ask for permission to miss the lesson as a matter of courtesy, to ensure any assessments are not missed and to make sure they know what work to catch up on. There will be a centralised list of students who will be absent due to sporting fixtures or other school events that staff can check. → Thank you for this praise and feedback. We hope that this will have a lasting impact in terms of aspiration and diversity. → The PE Department intends to run this in the future. → A difficult decision will need to be made about whether or not to reschedule the Enrichment Day. Whilst we want students to still have enriching opportunities, we need to balance this with concerns about missing any further lessons.

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Communication, systems & processes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We discussed the CATs tests that students complete on entry in Year 7 which helps to inform staff of students' ability and prior attainment levels. Parents/Carers expressed an interest in this also being shared with them. ● Parents/Carers felt that parents were very well prepared in the most recent parents' evening in terms of the structure and how the 5 minutes were used. New portal is much better and easier to use. Some parents/carers reported that questions could not be added after making the appointments so to avoid losing the slot when booking is made available they might not have added notes and questions in advance as they would have liked to. Staff very clear in terms of structure. Use of two people at different locations was very helpful as well as being able to do this remotely when not at home. Some feedback that there might be a discrepancy on occasion between the discussion surrounding progress and what the tracking suggested. Future of parents evening digital but keeping the start of year event. ● Parents/Carers praised our Network Support team. They found them to be very helpful at supporting with any issues that might have occurred. Their clear steps and stages to support are appreciated. ● Communication about Year 8 options was a little unclear regarding the date for options to be made by. This was changed and not correct across all documents. ● The countdown clock on Year 9 Parents Evening was incorrect. ● Year 9 parents haven't met the tutor before due to Covid disruption. ● Parents/Carers raised the issues with RS results on tracking. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → We will investigate and discuss how CATs data might be shared with parents. We would need to also give some contextual and clear information about what the CATS data means. → Praise passed on to Mr Mowforth regarding the features of the new system for parents evening and the structure and use of time in the most recent Year 9 Parents evening. Whether notes/questions can be added after having made the appointments will also be explored. Learning Mentors make phone calls with those who haven't made appointments and where internet access might be an issue we can arrange to do phone calls instead of virtual appointments. → Praise for network support passed on and received with thanks. → A reminder of the date will be given in Friday messages, eWeald and on social media. One of the date changes was unfortunately due to this being a strike day. → Mr Mowforth adjusted this when alerted by parents. → Unfortunately, we do not have capacity for this as it would reduce the number of subject appointments available. Please contact the form tutor directly with concerns/issues. → This was addressed by Mrs Gardner following the issue of tracking. |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with Talaxy persist which is why we have chosen to move away from this platform and are phasing this out. Trials with My Child in School are continuing and parents/carers are keen for this to be launched soon. • Concerns raised surrounding vaping by students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Mr Mowforth will be launching My Child in School in due course. We are trialling this rigorously to minimise any issues once it is launched to all parents/carers. → Vaping alarms have been fitted to toilets. Vapes are a prohibited item and if a student is found vaping, parents would be informed and consequences will be in place. RHPD lessons are being delivered to support the education surrounding this topic and issue..
<p>Curriculum & assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 assessments - emails about assessments just before Christmas with some guidance and suggested revision which caused some concern and worry for students and parents/carers just before the holidays. Some students were unclear of when the assessments would be and some they thought had been moved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the future we will try to give more advanced information about assessments. We are unable to send a personalised timetable of assessments home to parents due to the complexity of the timetabling. Teachers will be clear with classes about which lesson the assessment will be in.
<p>Wider community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Larder launching on Wednesday 8th February from the School House to support our wider community. • Visitors to our Community Christmas Party really enjoyed this event. • Discussed that the Community Centre is opening its doors as a warm building to support members of the community. • We are reviewing and updating our Accessibility Plan to support us effectively welcoming all students to our community school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Keen to spread awareness of this via social media and eWeald. → We appreciate this positive feedback and will pass on praise to the organisers. → We will explore whether we might be able to also offer support to the community as a warm building on a different day to the Community Centre. → We welcome parent/carers feedback on this and one of our Parent Voice Partnership attendees has kindly offered to support with this.

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If you would like to express interest in joining our Parent Partnership Group or raise any discussion points for the next meeting on Thursday 27th April please email parents@theweald.org.uk.

In attendance on Thursday 2nd February: Jemma Rigby (*Community Engagement Lead* at The Weald), Alice Lerche (*Governor*), Rachel Terry (*Vice-Chair of Governors & Y10 parent/carer*) Beth Gibson (Y7 & Y9 parent/carer), Diana Vettese (Y9 parent/carer), Sarah Harwood (Y7 parent/carer), Zsa Roggendorff (Y10 parent/carer), Liz Homer (Y8 parent/carer), Tim Canham (Y8 & Y10 parent/carer)

Future meeting dates for 2023: Thursday 27th April & Thursday 22nd June (5pm - 6pm)