

Parent Voice Partnership - 17th October 2024

What was discussed	Response and actions
<p><i>Enrichment & wider opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents/carers commented on how students had really enjoyed the Year 11 Macbeth trip with David Tennant and that many Year 10 students were looking forward to the An Inspector Calls trip and really enjoying studying the play in class. ● There was very positive feedback about the Year 7 Opal Coast trip which took place during Enrichment Day in the summer term; students really enjoyed it and were happy on the trip. Parents/carers felt that it was very well organised with busy days full of activities for students. Some parents/carers felt that the delay between the Opal Coast information and then the in school activities meant that students weren't sure what they were choosing between. ● Year 9 students are excited about the upcoming ACE Week activities. In the past parents/carers have found that the activities are about who else is doing it but this is more about choosing the activity itself. When completing the Google Form some parents/carers found that they were unable to obtain a copy of confirmation of whether the Google Form has been completed. ● Parents/Carers shared that some students are confused about how to use the D of E app. ● Parents/carers and students continue to be happy with the range of clubs on offer. Late buses are available (arranged by the school) on these days; there are fewer seats and a longer route which some students are reluctant to use but others enjoy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → We are very pleased to hear this feedback and have been pleased to be able to fill both trips. We will continue to offer these opportunities to evening performances where we can. → Organisers will be pleased to hear this very positive feedback about the organisation of the trip and the experience offered to Year 7 students. We are aware of having some negative feedback on the food which we address as far as possible with the venue which is otherwise ideal for the number of students accommodated. Due to the internal activities for all year groups being decided later than the Opal Coast trip being organised and offered it is difficult for us to change the timescale of this information being published. → We will check the settings of Google Forms which should be set up to send an email confirmation of choices made if opted for. On some devices this might be more challenging. → Instructions and video guidance is available on Google Classroom and on the school website via this link. → It was suggested that it might be useful to date stamp the version of club lists in case there are any updates as there are sometimes discrepancies between what's on social media.

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Communication, systems & processes

- Parents/carers commented on the efficient booking process for parents' evenings and appreciated that it was becoming easier to manage the 5 minute limit. This can be an issue if a teacher joins late to these and on a couple of instances teachers did not join for the appointment. Some parents/carers of GCSE students were concerned that they couldn't book appointments with both the PE Theory and Games teacher.
 - Parents/carers shared that it is really helpful if links and instructions for homework are really explicit on BromCom. The parents/carers of some Year 8 students said that sometimes it is on Google Classroom rather than on BromCom. Year 7 students in particular might need some more guidance in using this as well as new parents/carers. Parents/carers said that they found the Sparx Maths videos really useful but the time lag between notifications can be frustrating. Some parents/carers also commented on how they have lots of homeworks still visible which they are unsure how to clear.
 - Some parents/carers commented that the lack of information on behaviour points can be an issue and they really appreciate a brief note of explanation.
- Parents/carers suggested that if there is a particular issue it might be best to raise this via email ahead of the meeting, have some questions written down in advance or to mention any issues at the start of the 5 minutes. If a staff member is unexpectedly absent there will be email communication to let you know. Due to the limitation on time, appointments should be made with the PE theory teacher who will liaise with the Games teacher as needed.
 - The expectation is that homework should be first and foremost on BromCom so there will be a reminder about this, particularly in Year 8. During Year 7 IT lessons students will be introduced to new systems and processes. We have had some videos available in the past to support parents/carers with IT systems and will explore whether we need to develop these further or reshare anything that might particularly be helpful to new parents/carers to The Weald.
 - Teachers will endeavour to put a brief note on behaviour hits, particularly where the reason might otherwise seem vague. If there is any further information required please email the class teacher.

Curriculum & assessments

- Some parents/carers expressed that the early Y10 exams this academic year caused some concern, particularly as students had recently had assessments in Year 9 in the summer term.
 - There was some feedback from some parents/carers that some subjects scaffold the homework really well (for example breaking down tasks and providing guidance and/or resources to support with completion) but for some it was a bit overwhelming (e.g. where the whole of a Knowledge Organiser might need to be learnt).
- Please be reassured that these were designed to assess skills and knowledge that students will have acquired in Year 9 rather than new and unfamiliar content.
 - This has been passed on to Ms Cortizo, Deputy Headteacher, who oversees Teaching and Learning including homework for further investigation and reminders to staff.

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Wider community

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There were some questions about the Work Experience process for Year 10. ● Some parents/carers and students were unaware that LRC is open after school if any clubs cancelled or the bus missed or that students can print here. ● Some parents/carers of Year 7 students shared that their child had commented on some pushing and shoving in the dinner queue in the main canteen; the smaller canteen is often quieter. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → There is a clear process for this and details will be shared later of an event which supports with this. → We will remind students and parents/carers about the availability of the LRC. → There are staff on duty in the canteen, particularly around the queue so a reminder will be given to be vigilant about addressing any pushing and shoving. |
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If you would like to express interest in joining our Parent Partnership Group in the future or raise any discussion points please email parents@theweald.org.uk.

In attendance on Thursday 17th October: Jemma Rigby (*Community Engagement Lead* at The Weald), Alice Lerche (*Governor*), Roselle Silvester (Y7 & 9 parent/carer), Zoe Bedford (Y8 parent/carer), Jess Sturt (Y8 parent/carer), Lucy Sexton (Y8 & 11 parent/carer), Nic Lewis (Y9 parent/carer), Beth Gibson (Y9 & 11 parent/carer) and Liz Homer (Y10 parent/carer).