

Parent Voice Partnership - 13th March 2025

What was discussed	Response and actions
<p><i>Enrichment & wider opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents/Carers expressed gratitude for the range of enrichment opportunities and trips that are offered to students throughout the year and through their education. It was felt that this was an impressive offering in comparison with other local schools. Year 11 students are particularly excited about the 'Out of Bounds' activity offered for the first time this year. It was felt that perhaps there were less opportunities for Year 8 on the upcoming enrichment day when they aren't going away during ACE Week but there is an acknowledgement that there is an aim to cause a balance throughout the year. ● Parents/Carers appreciated the opportunities for students to see performances of Literature set texts in school with some explanation and guidance for study from the performers. There were some questions raised about whether these are best done at the time or first reading the text or as a revision. ● Parents/Carers feel very aware of the sports clubs offered but wondered whether the other clubs might be shared as regularly. Parents/Carers are keen to encourage their children to try out a range of clubs, for some students doing HPQ when lots of options are running Lots of after school clubs on a Thursday which is difficult if doing HPQ (academic clubs). Acknowledgement that there are less matches for some sports (e.g. hockey) perhaps due to a difference in popularity across schools and a final which was cancelled but not rearranged. ● Letter received about the Y11 Prom with cost but some parents/carers felt that it would be helpful to know roughly what this might cover (e.g. food, entertainment etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Feedback from Year 11 parents/carers and students suggest that the 'Out of Bounds' activity is a good offering that we could keep going forwards rather than just further opportunity for revision. Suggestion that if year groups were given the information about their activities only there would be less disappointment if there was an activity another year group are doing that they would like to have done instead. → Timing of the theatre performances is sometimes dictated by the availability of the company and performance venues. Currently we aim to show An Inspector Calls in Year 10 and Jekyll and Hyde in Year 11. → Parents/Carers raised whether sixth formers and local community organisations might be able to support the running of after school clubs more to support staff further. It was felt that the football results are often reports (e.g. in weekly notices and eWeald) but some parents/carers would like to hear more about other sports results. → Planning for the Y11 prom is still in motion but some general information about what this might include could be shared in the future.

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<p>Communication, systems & processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/Carers all felt that the MCAS layout has been improved since it was first launched, particularly on phones which is how most parents are accessing it. It was also generally felt that communication is better with emails listing letters on the Friday. • There was agreement from all that rewards work well to incentivise students. Parents/Carers shared that the Y11 reward cards have been positively received by students, particularly any food incentives. Students with most improved tracking or attendance given a choice of reward (e.g. dance class or football match) responded very positively to this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Thank you for this feedback. We have worked hard in consultation from parents/carers to try and ensure our communication systems and clear and supportive. → As a school we are currently exploring how we might develop our rewards system further to praise students more. We are considering giving a House Point every day to each student who attends school and doesn't receive a behaviour hit. This suggestion was positively received by all parents/carers at the meeting.
<p>Curriculum & assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently some students have been asked to provide their exercise books but were unsure what this might be for. Some parents/carers of Year 11 students were particularly concerned about them not having access to books for revision purposes over the weekend. • Some parents/carers expressed concern about exercise books not coming home in some subjects. There was also some lack of clarity about the expectations of catching up on work if students are absent and how they should best do this. • Some concerns were raised about the use of AI for homework, particularly in Maths where this appears to be happening more regularly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → At times we conduct work scrutinies by looking at students' exercise books to support our review of students' learning. It will only affect a small number of students and should not be across all subjects. → In some subjects it is normal for students to keep books in the classroom rather than taking them home after every lesson. This is to avoid them getting tatty in bags and to ensure students have what they need for the lesson. It also enables teachers to check and monitor the work of students more easily between lessons to address any necessary feedback with students. If students would like to take books home on occasions they are always welcome to ask the teacher to do so. → We discussed how we might be able to alert parents/carers to this for support when completing homework and a careful balance in how this might be communicated to students to avoid it becoming a greater issue. With sixth form students, who complete coursework and might be preparing for education, this may need to be addressed more explicitly.

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- There was some concern raised by parents/carers that Year 11 students feel they have too much homework to balance alongside their revision. In Year 10 students felt that they needed a bit more guidance on how to revise. Information on when the assessments are taking place is still inconsistent across subjects and teachers.
- Some parents/carers unaware that you can check whether the timetable is Week A or Week B on BromCom.

- The homework being set for Year 11s is all RED review and revision so should form part of their revision plan. Some students and parents/carers feel that there could be more flexibility and choice in the lead up to the exam. Throughout the year we will increasingly support Year 10 students on how to revise effectively using RED Review methods in class.
- Suggestion that at the Welcome Evenings it might be worth showing parents/carers some key areas to look on BromCom on the screen.

Wider community

- Parents/Carers felt that that Y10 work experience process went smoothly but found that for some students remembering the logins for UniFrog were an issue as they hadn't accessed them for a while.
- Several parents/carers attended the Future Choices event and gave positive feedback about the range of organisations represented. It was fed back that attendance after school was relatively low and that perhaps communication about the event could have been received earlier and included more information about what would be available.
- Several parents/carers attended the Christmas Fair and commented on how well organised it was.
- Parents/Carers were pleased to hear that we have been lent a mini-bus. Our summer event, Weald Fest, will help to raise money for a permanent solution - we encourage parents/carers, students and the local community to join us for this.

- Suggestion about whether students might be encouraged to log into Unifrog before Year 10 work experience.
- Earlier advertising and notice of the Future Choices event would be appreciated. Some parents/carers felt that students might be engaged with the event more through a challenge and stamp card to visit more stands and/or online access to Unifrog and/or an online quiz that gives career suggestions. The Weald Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 10 students is taking place on 16th June.
- Thank you for supporting this event which we intend to run again next year.
- Some parents/carers raised that there are mini-buses in the local communities (e.g. Billingshurst, Wisborough Green and Slinfold) which might not be used very regularly who might be willing to lend to us. It was also suggested that we might utilise the TESCO voucher scheme in local stores. There are limitations on how many times you can apply for this each year but worth us utilising more.

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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 13th March: Jemma Rigby (*Community Engagement Lead* at The Weald), Alice Lerche (*Governor*), Rosie Silvester (Y7 & 9 parent/carer), Heidi Lang (Y10 parent/carer), Lucy Sexton (Y8 & 11 parent/carer), Nic Lewis (Y9 parent/carer), Beth Gibson (Y9 & 11 parent/carer) and Elizabeth Homer (Y10 parent/carer).