

Parent Forum Meeting 24th March 2021 – 5pm

Singular Agenda item for discussion: Year 11 Parents Evening

Mark Rundle has kindly spoken to a small representative of Year 11 parents and the following points have been raised for discussion.

Apologies from Beverley O'Shea - A list of queries from Bev have been incorporated below.

1. After school revision clubs - is there potential? Perhaps Zoom revision sessions if staying in school is an issue. This is currently being collated from subject leaders – We have asked if they are able to deliver sessions, if they want to deliver sessions in College or over Zoom slightly later in the afternoon. Once this is collated, we will timetable appropriately to reduce the chance of clashes. We are mindful that not all teachers may have capacity for this – Exam assessments would normally be marked by external examiners, there is an increased demand on teachers to set and mark all these additional assessments. We need to be mindful of staff workload also. It is also vital that students are accessing GCSE pod (which will only serve to further enhance their independent learning skills). It was shared how a RAG google sheet which has informed on particular areas of revision for a class has been useful in helping direct students to particular pods and areas for revision. This strategy will be shared with other teaching staff.
2. Difficult to prepare revision timetable as class tests are being moved within lessons and they are only a week ahead. Longer schedule of class assessment to plan revision across all the subjects. The timetable for assessments during the assessment window will be shared as soon as it is finalised, so students will know 'when' these are occurring. Topics will be shared as soon as we can, but the OFQUAL assessments are not available until the end of March. As we have not seen them, we cannot presume their content. We will not select questions/topics that students have not learned, and we can be selective as to whether we use them.
3. Could a topic list for all assessments in May be issued before Easter? Answered above
4. A lot of testing, 3/5 in a week. What will be left to cover in the planned May 3 week mini assessments? Students have only experienced a full school year in their Year 9 – they've lost half of yr 10 and yr 11, as have teaching staff. In addition, assessments completed in yr 9 may not reflect a level of maturity and additionally would not assess at higher grades. Therefore, a larger volume of assessments is inevitable as we strive to ensure that we have sufficient information to assign students grades that they truly deserve. The assessment window in May will be really important in enabling us to evidence 'Could' grades.
5. Is anyone overviewing how many assessments are being currently set so as not to overload the students. Yes – this has been collated. A number of subjects still have NEA (non examined assessment) which has not gone away. To ensure our approach is sensible and prevents overwhelming students, all NEAs are only able to be scheduled before or after the May assessment window.
6. The most common question for parents evening - What is the current grade and will that be the one going forward? Prior to parents evening, we will share for all subjects the 'Should' grade and where applicable, a 'Could' grade. A could grade is not feasible for some subjects; BTECs for

example where module exams already carry a certain weighting. The 'Should' grade is based on all of the assessment data gathered since Year 9. It is therefore strongly evidenced and not negotiable.

7. Is 5 minutes long enough for each subject? Some teachers have 2 groups and therefore, it cannot be longer. However, a letter and video will be shared beforehand to make it very explicit as to the purpose of the appointments and how to get the best out of the experience. It is vitally important that the appointment is about how do we support one another in supporting your child to achieve their 'Could' grade?
8. Not booking parent evening sessions - going straight to the teacher? We would urge all parents to only contact teachers if absolutely necessary. We want teachers to focus on teaching and assessing – Distraction from this would be unhelpful. Tracy added that with children in Year 8,10 and 12 – it was important that their needs were considered also and that teacher's attentions weren't solely on Years 11 and 13.
9. Only booking parent evening sessions with the teachers that have not been given a current working grade. All subjects will provide a Should grade. Where applicable, there will also be a 'Could' grade
10. Teacher asked about grades - no response – As answered previously
11. What is the Year 11 leave date, students will benefit to have an end goal to aim for. The final date is not fully decided but we are in the midst of planning a 'transition' for yr 11 students who are pursuing A levels. We are proposing that they will access year 12 lessons and have specific events designed to ensure they can access sixth form successfully. Tracy asked if the reduced content would be covered and Wendy confirmed that these sessions would be a hybrid of a Yr 11/Yr 12 lesson and where pertinent, yes, this content will be covered.
12. Is it possible to have evening revision sessions for all subjects for both Year 10 and year 11? There are currently Coachbright sessions for many identified year 10 students (these are external tutors). More in College sessions will be considered post June, when our focus can move from the examination cohorts.
13. What is the best format to relay these considerations to the parents prior to the parents evening if helpful? – raised by Clare Law A letter and video will be shared shortly.
14. AOB: Access arrangements – We are working hard to ensure students are receiving these and/or will do in the May assessments. Mark stated that he knew some students were being sent to alternate rooms for their arrangements currently and whether this would make them feel stigmatised. Mrs Patton assured the group that students with access arrangements have traditionally being in a smaller cohort in different rooms to the main cohort, so this is practice they are well used to.