



## Autumn 2018-19 Parent Meetings Report

On the evening 16th October and the morning 17th October we welcomed over 50 parents in for our termly coffee meetings.

After a brief speech by Ms Curtis the parents spent 15 minutes each in smaller groups feeding back on the following areas:

- Teaching and Learning with Ms Donachy
- Behaviour with Mr Ittu
- Raising aspirations and Enrichment with Mr El-Hendi

After the small group discussions each group fed back to Ms Curtis and had an opportunity to raise a range of issues directly with Ms Curtis at the end. The group that met during the school day also had an opportunity to have a tour of the school and visit a range of subjects while learning was happening.

A number of topics were discussed and they are summarised below:

### Teaching & Learning

- **There were a range of questions around how pupils were stretched and challenged in their lessons and also how pupils who were new to English were being supported.**

Parents were encouraged to make contact with the school if they have any questions about their child's progress. The parent review day's happen at the start of every term but if parents or carers have a subject specific question they are encouraged to email the head of department directly - all email addresses can be found on the school's website.

- **Parents fed back that they felt that their children were on the whole being set more homework but that this was not always written in their planners and it was often difficult to know how to support their child complete the homework.**

Homework club now runs after school every day Monday-Thursday and if children are struggling with their homework they are encouraged to attend this. They can also get support with their homework in the school library before or after school and during break and lunchtime. Many pupils are coming into school early for the breakfast club and completing homework then. If your child has really tried with their homework and struggled with it, please always write a note in their planner or email the teacher directly. Again, if your child is struggling with a particular subject's homework or if you are concerned they are not receiving enough homework please contact the head of department directly.

- **Parents asked why not all subjects allowed pupils to take home their exercise books.**

The expectation is that most subjects should allow pupils to take home their exercise books. Some subjects use folders or work books. Ms Curtis also said that EVERY subject in every year group had created a revision booklet for the assessments next term and so that all pupils would have one of these as well.

## **Behaviour**

- **Parents were pleased that there is more of a focus on merits and rewards and liked the postcards home and the merit text messages.**

Parents were encouraged to look at their child's planner regularly and sign it weekly and to see the merit total written in for the previous week as this is a great way to see how your child is making the extra effort. Mr Ittu was keen to point out that there are more than 4 x more merits given out than corrections!

- **Parents were concerned that when they received a correction text message the cause of the correction was not given.**

This is a problem with the current system. From the end of November Year 8 will be trialling a new App which can be downloaded onto your phone. On this App you will be able to track all school information including the reasons for corrections, as well as merits and latest grades. If this is successful it will be rolled out to other year groups in the Spring term.

- **Parents were concerned that absence was never granted during term time even in unusual and emergency situations.**

The school cannot authorise holiday in school time however on very rare occasions will consider exceptional circumstances which is why parents and carers must complete an absence request form before taking the leave.

## **Raising aspirations and enrichment**

- **Parents said that there had not been so many trips this half term and that they were keen to see what trips were planned coming up**

We minimise the number of trips in Autumn term 1 because we think it is important to establish our routines and expectations particularly with new pupils joining the school. More trips are planned for every year group carefully linked to the curriculum and these can be found on the calendar on the website.

- **Parents wanted to know where they could find out about the after-school clubs**

The enrichment club list can be found on the website along with details about the core enrichment offer in KS3.

## **Other issues raised**

- The school is currently working with Brent to try and secure a new pedestrian crossing outside our new entrance. This is essential highway works that were supposed to be carried out two years ago and we are still waiting to see them take place. Both the school and parents were united in their shared belief that this work was essential as it was an accident waiting to happen.
- The school reiterated the message that pupils should avoid the main high street as much as possible and use the bus stops outside our new entrance as these are more supervised by staff and less used by pupils from other schools.
- Parents were encouraged to share their feedback both directly with the school and with OFSTED. OFSTED have a parent website where you can leave your feedback about our school: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Thank you to all the parents who attended and all the positive and useful feedback given.