



Meeting title:	John Ferneley College Parent Forum
Date and time:	7th March 2024 at 5pm
Location:	Meeting at the school
In attendance	Kat Russell, Assistant Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes and Safeguarding Matt Parrott: Executive Lead for Stakeholder and Partnerships Alistair Halifax Assistant Headteacher: Timetable, Data and Exams Anna Duval, Clerk Parents: Rob Metcalfe Pia Delucchi Rachel Owen Nicola Evans Jennifer Norwood Nicola Carter Emma Potter Jacob Ndlovu Natividad Leach Alison Ewens Joshua Okodogbe

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Russell welcomed everyone to the parent forum and introductions were made from herself, Mr Parrott and Mr Halifax. Mr King sent apologies.

The remit of the parent forum is to get feedback from parents and to give opportunities for parents to share ideas where improvements can be made. Parents were reminded that these meetings do not discuss items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff.

Feedback from last meeting

- At the last meeting parents requested that KS3 reports include previous assessment data so that comparisons can be made. This has been actioned.
- Parents requested clearer information of what is being taught in each subject each term so that parents can engage with children at home. Mrs Russell said this also useful for parents who may wish

to provide extra homework on topics. The senior team have written a 'school on page' document and subject leaders are writing information about their subjects and this information will be available on the website soon.

MS Forms responses

A MS Forms was sent to all parents in advance of the meeting to give anonymous feedback and raise questions to the parent forum. There were 17 responses on this occasion and these were used to shape discussions.

Feedback from Parents: What is Working Well.

- Attendance incentives.
- Pleased with the general comms from the school. I'm kept up to date with the weekly newsletter. I'm very pleased with the SEN support my child is receiving and the team are very open and supportive. I feel that I'm able to contact them with concerns and the adaptations and flexibility for my child are helping with their confidence but also helping them to understand their own responsibility.
- Communication.
- Effective Communication using the necessary platforms.
- Newsletters.
- everything quite good.
- Form tutors and SEN support via key worker, weekly newsletter.
- My children are happy at JF and any emotional support a child has required has been given.
- Continue to support the children.
- Physical meeting.
- Reports work well so we know how children are doing academically.
- Teacher to Parent communication.
- Communications, safeguarding, additional activities.
- school app, newsletters, school communication.
- Good pastoral support from year head.
- Everything so far so good.

Feedback from Parents: In your opinion, what could be improved?

- More homework.
- Your Facebook platform.
- More homework.
- I'm not clear how I communicate with form tutor to raise any questions as the system changed and I cannot find the email explaining.
- Comms from school to parent - how many apps???! Behaviour management of disruptive children. Wearing of correct uniform.
- Give to them more homework.
- Having more interactions between teachers and parents.

- Behaviour management.
- Continuity of staff is lacking at times and this is the start of GCSE's it's worrying. Staff not doing practical elements of the course because some students are messing about so those that behave miss out too. This being sports studies and DT. Some staff having little or no respect for my child, she has been called a brat in recent weeks. Male teachers not letting her go to the toilet when she is on her period which I find appalling. Attitude of some staff is belittling and yet you expect the respect of your students.
- Communication. Sometimes messages go unanswered. On the recent London trip there was no correspondence to even say if they arrived safely. SEND - having a child on the SEND register, there has been no communication since starting whereas in primary we communicated with teachers quarterly. I know this is difficult as it's not just one teacher per child but some communication should be essential.
- Firmer boundaries for the students.
- Seneca.
- school transport punctuality.
- Better communication with parents about progress - tracking reports are not at all detailed and a 3 minute chat on line with subject teacher is woefully inadequate.

Feedback from Parents: Anything else you would like to discuss.

- I don't know the email address to contact the school or *teacher* if there is something I want to discuss about my child's wellbeing or educational journey at school.
- Homework.
- Progress in my child academics.
- Better communication from head of year pls.
- Regarding child school books to see.
- I don't know when we move to Weduc- I was told not to put too much money on the old system.
- Why is the cost of school trips so high compared to other school's similar trips???? Homework - inconsistent and what happens if your child is unable to do a part of the homework (maths is the example)?
- Thank you for all your hard work.
- Her behaviour in general.
- Homework.
- I'm disappointed with the attitude of many staff not just towards my daughter but also towards me. At times it verges on bullying, like there is a personal axe to grind. I'm not sure of the quality of the education provided, so much so I have employed a private tutor for 2 of the core subjects.
- Support plan that may be needed for children. Some kind of plan of action for support at home and school so parents and teachers are on the same page concerning the child in question.
- No concerns. My child sounds happy so I'm happy too.
- nothing thank you. you are all doing amazing job.

- My son would like to know what options he will have for GCSE subjects. I believe at least 2 of my son's teachers do not have formal teaching qualifications. I would like to know what you think makes them eligible to teach.
- Will see how the first meeting goes. Well done to the school so far.

The meeting discussed the following.

School Contact

Mrs Russell said contact is through the school website's contact us tab or via the school ask email ask@johnferneley.org The messages received are triaged daily and the aim is to reply within 3 days. Mrs Russell said it was necessary to introduce a contact form following too many inappropriate contacts that staff needed protection form.

Parents said they have used this and have not always received a response.

Parents said the form is limited to the number of characters you can fill in and is too short.

Parents said responses are inconsistent after being triaged and emailed to staff.

Mr Parrott said it relies on sending emails but there is not a way of checking and following them up. If parents haven't received a response they could telephone the school.

Parents said they fill in the but don't get a copy of what they have submitted.

Mr Parrott said he will look into the design of the form to see if the system can inbox parents.

Mrs Russell asked parents to provide her individual details at the end of the meeting so she may follow through what has happened.

Homework

Mrs Russell said the new Headteacher, Mr Claridge will be joining JFC after Easter. Mr Claridge and Mr Elder, Executive Lead for Secondaries are working to develop the curriculum and homework is part of that.

Parents discussed inconsistencies of homework and said they would like a homework timetable, communication about expectations, and feedback on it.

Parents ask about homework on Sparks and Seneca. Mr Halifax said teachers can set work or students can use them for revision.

The meeting discussed the apps that are used for homework.

Mr Parrott said Mr Claridge and Mr Elder will be looking at homework and told parents information will follow.

Academic progress

Mrs Russell said a column has been added to the reports that include previous assessment data so that comparisons can be made.

Mrs Russell said parents receive two reports, parents evening and have the opportunity to ask for more detail. It provides information on whether they child is on track or under performing and what effort they are making.

Communication from Head of Year

Mrs Russell said parents can contact the Head of Year through the school contact form or the school ask email. Mrs Russel said she is the Head of Year's line manager and parents can request for her to be copied in. The Head of Years are:

Year 7. Mr Beaver

Year 8. Mr Malarky

Year 9. Miss Ferguson

Year 10. Miss Hibbert

Year 11. Mrs Mitcham

School books

Mrs Russell said students have school books and that some stay in school some come home for homework.

Parents said they were given a list of 25 recommended revision guides without context of what is needed when.

Mr Parrott said the school will provide a document that outlines which ones are recommended for which students and when.

Weduc and paying money

Parents said Weduc has a transactions charge when paying by credit card.

Mr Parrott said he will look into the transaction charge issue.

Parents gave examples of problems with using Weduc at primaries schools in the Trust.

Mr Parrott and Mr Halifax took details and will look into the issues with Weduc.

Bus service collecting from Thrussington

Mrs Russell said County Hall generally provide school transport but when the school wasn't full the school put on a bus from Thrussington to meet demand. Mr Parrott said school provided transport needs to be covering costs.

Cost of trips

Parents gave examples of higher costs of trips compared to other schools. Ski trip at £1200 to £1700. It was noted there were differences is location, dates, hotel, and itinerary. The ski trip proposed is being reconsidered as there have few takers.

Alton Towers £47 compared to £35.

Parents said they have been asked for expressions of interest in a football trip to Portugal then heard nothing. Mrs Russell agreed to follow this up.

The meeting noted there are a range of trips taking place.

Mrs Parrott said the trips across year groups are mapped out and they are planning on getting the schedule out to parents.

Home/school agreed support plans for students who require them

Mrs Russell said there are a range of plans: pastoral, SEND, medical and ECHP and that parents should contact the school if they are concerned their child needs more support.

What the GCSE options may be (for my Yr. 8 son)

Mrs Russell said broadly speaking the same options will be offered as now and suggested looking at the website for details.

Teachers

There was a MS Forms comment asking about teachers that have no formal teaching qualification. Mrs Russell said there is a national recruitment issue for teachers. The first aim is to appoint a qualified teacher. There are few trainees in the Trust but they are developed and fully supported. Mr Halifax gave an example of how more science teachers leaving the profession nationally than are being trained and there is a national shortage of maths teachers.

Parent meetings

Parents asked if they could move them from online to in person and asked if they could be longer than 30 minutes. Mrs Russell took some details from parents on individual issues they had experienced during online parent meetings.

Parent forums.

Parents suggested having the meeting at different times of the day.

Parents liked the use of MS Forms.

Parents suggested having a topic to the first part of each meeting.

Parents said they received late notice of meetings. They requested more notice and for the dates to be added to the school calendar.

Mrs Russell thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm

The next Parent Forum meeting is in the summer term on Thursday 16th May, 5pm.