

## **Email to Parents: A proposal for Parents' Evenings (Years 7-11) from September 2016**

The core purpose of the SNLP is to secure the best possible experience, learning and outcomes for all young people for whom we have responsibility. The role played by parents/carers in helping to achieve this aim is a vital one and we are always looking for ways to improve the level of partnership working with this key group.

An important forum for parents/carers to engage with staff is via Parents' Evenings and, whilst record levels of attendance have been seen across the partnership this year, we are aware the some parents have, at times, been frustrated that they are unable to gain appointments with all of their son/daughters' teachers. The current system provides a 2 hour & 30 minutes window from 5:00pm – 7:30pm for parents/carers to make bookings. This allows a maximum of 30 bookings which regularly proves to be insufficient for any member of staff who happens to teach more than one class per year group meaning that they are unable to see all parents/carers who wish to make a booking. This has historically proven to be particularly frustrating for Year 7 parents who are keen to engage with their child's teachers at the start of their secondary education but is, to varying degrees, a feature of all Parents' Evenings up to, and including, Year 11.

Feedback from our recent parental survey has highlighted that this is an issue which parents/carers would like us to address; as such we are communicating with you to put forward a proposal for increasing the number of available appointment slots from September 2016 which provides a balance between the demands placed upon teaching staff and our mutual desire to engage in a meaningful way to discuss the progress of our students and your children.

Details of the proposal are as follows (please note that this proposal applied only to years 7-11):

1. Parents' Evening would be re-named 'Parent Consultations' and would always be on a Wednesday on the following dates during the next academic year:
  - Year 7 = Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017
  - Year 8 = Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017
  - Year 9 = Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017
  - Year 10 = Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017
  - Year 11 = Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017
2. On these dates, ECM and mentoring would be cancelled allowing appointments to be made from 2:30pm; this would allow staff to have lunch, prepare the building and organise resources for the appointments. Lessons would, therefore, end for students after period 4, at 1:10pm with lunch being available as normal. We intend to provide study areas and are also investigating the possibility of delivering targeted ECM activities for students not attending appointments.
3. Appointments would run until 7:00pm offering 48 appointment slots in total instead of the current 30. Staff will have the opportunity to take a 30 minute break during the evening which will appear as a blocked-out period on the booking form.
4. In light of the anticipated increase in parental attendance at Parent Consultations, Academic Planning Reviews would be removed from the calendar. Students currently prepare for these appointments by evaluating their own learning habits via the 'Student Response Grids', completed in lessons or for homework and stuck into exercise books. It would be our intention to continue with this practice in the weeks leading up to each year groups' Parent Consultations to help facilitate a discussion about the students' progress and attitude to learning.

We would, therefore, be grateful if you would give consideration to this proposal and provide any feedback by emailing [enquiries@ernulf.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@ernulf.cambs.sch.uk) or [enquiries@longsands.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@longsands.cambs.sch.uk) by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June with the subject title '**Parents' Evening Consultation**'.

R A Carroll

Headteacher, Ernulf Academy

M L Paine

Headteacher, Longsands Academy