



Making our best our standard

Wolstanton High School: Parents' Forum meeting Notes: Tuesday 22nd March 2016 - 5.30pm in the LRC

1. Welcome (Tessa Thomas – Headteacher)

- **Mrs Thomas** said good evening and a conversation had already begun about the venue for parents' evenings which we are looking at and will come back to at another meeting.

2. Maths Department presentation (Garry Smith – Head of Subject)

- **Mr Smith was joined by Miss Lin and Mr Wilson-Cunningham.**
- A clear demonstration and explanation was made about Maths and computer programmes called Ninjas and Rock Stars. **Mr Smith** explained how they are used to identify areas of learning that need targeting.
- **Miss Lin and Mr Wilson-Cunningham** spoke highly of the competitive enthusiasm that has been engendered amongst the children through the use of these programmes.
- **Mr Smith** spoke of his belief that instant feedback is vital for Maths learning. He is a great advocate for Hegarty Maths and gave a demonstration. He offered, and the parents were keen, that they can have a trial of their own with the Maths Team at the next forum meeting.
- **Action: Maths Team to present at next meeting.**

3. Setting for next year (Mary Hobson – Assistant Headteacher)

- Setting in September will be changed across all Year groups.
- The main changes are: The sets in core subjects will be ranked in order of ability and will be timetabled as separate subjects across all Year groups.
- Humanities subjects and MFL in Years 7/8/9 will be timetabled in the same sets.
- Parents and pupils will be informed of the set changes in the summer term.

4. Any other business

Homework

- Homework on Insight has been improved, but further improvement possible.
- Suggestion for a homework timetable. **Mrs Thomas** is not keen and her experience is that this can cause constraints on homework setting. It is important to monitor quality of homework and that each student is making progress.
- **Parents: Any queries regarding homework please let us know swiftly as there are now very clear lines of accountability in school.**

Detentions:

- Discussion followed of the new proposal.

Prefects:

- One parent had experience of a recent application that had been stuck in the iCloud and her child only knew about this when spoken to by a member of staff and the child could identify the exact time and date that the application had been sent in and so it was found. Concerns that there may be others stuck there.
- Request made that if a child does not become a prefect, there is time taken to debrief them as to why.
- Mrs Thomas said she was considering that for Year 10 there would be a further opportunity in Year 11 for other students to become prefects. She is also considering having a Head Boy and Head Girl of School.

Vapes:

- Concern that smoking vapes is growing; it appears to be becoming very fashionable amongst some children. Discussion followed.

Request for the syllabi for students' subjects:

- **Action: Mrs Hobson to look into this.**

Music lessons:

- Requested that, rather than 3 instalments, monthly instalments or a savings plan might be considered. Also requested that children might be rotated in their music lessons so that they don't miss the same lesson each time for their music lesson.

Safeguarding letter:

- Mrs Thomas raised the issue that a letter that is to go out onto the website with regard to keeping our children safe over Easter and beyond as we have intelligence from the police of some anti-social behaviour and activity and just want to raise awareness with parents – please know where your child is.

5. Dates for forthcoming meeting: [Tuesday 21st June at 5.30pm in the LRC.](#)