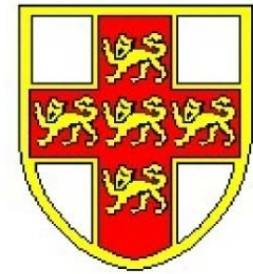

Parents' Forum, 12th October 2011

Millthorpe School



Topic : Reporting pupil progress and communication

Many thanks to the 62 parents who came to help us with their views.

We asked parents to feed back about 5 issues regarding reporting :

1. How do you use the reports at home ?
2. How useful is parents' evening & how can it be improved ?
3. We have 3 tutor reports a year, one includes a tutor comment, and we have one parents' evening each year. Does this provide sufficient feedback to parents ?
4. What is your opinion on having a narrative only from the form tutor once per year ?
5. What is your opinion regarding targets for improvement as opposed to general comments ?

Their comments are below.

We look forward to our next Parents' Forum on the 14th March 2012 where the topic will be "Supporting your child through KS4".

Our final Parents' Forum will be on 30th May 2012 when the topic will be "Supporting your child through effective use of IT".

How do you use the reports at home ?

- To encourage and motivate my child
- Previous report levels on reports would be useful
- To give rewards for good reports
- To praise effort & achievement
- To identify areas of concern
- Discussed with child at length
- To celebrate
- To address any concerns with child
- As Y7 parents we are unsure and would welcome any guidance
- I record them as a graph to give a visual reference to progress
- We ask the child to explain why they've got the grade they have.
- We ask how they get on with each teacher and compare their grades. We sometimes feel that if they like the teacher their grades are better !
- If report slip are used to make comments it's important that these are replied to
- We use them to support. This would be easier with more comments.
- Useful if they have moved sets to look at the grade and make sure they are in the right set.
- When looking at overall progress do end of Key Stage targets get reviewed regularly ?
- More info on what the levels mean & what should be expected would be useful.
- To identify where improvement is required and how to help
- My son went backwards – shouldn't this have been picked up ?

How useful is parents' evening & how can it be improved ?

- Very useful but chaotic
- More students to show parents round
- Make it clear if students are welcome to interact
- Impressed that teachers had knowledge of new individual students
- October Y7 parents' evening was good
- Overall good. Hectic on the night trying to speak to all teachers. Tried for late appointment due to work but some teachers had gone home.
- Could be better organised
- 5 mins not long enough to iron out concerns
- Keep to time please.
- Privacy can be an issue.
- Reports need to be timely – sent out in sync with parents' eve.
- Maybe the evening could be split over 2 nights ?
- Friends of Millthorpe could be there.
- Appointments don't account for « travelling » time
- Difficult to find the teachers when in different rooms
- Feel limited to seeing 7 teachers – should be able to see who you want
- Useful to put face to name
- Less waiting would be good
- Lining up for teachers not organised
- Perhaps the responsibility of making appointments should not be left to the child – electronic system ?
- Option for other consultations where more in-depth conversations can take place
- Need more time per teacher
- Starts too early
- More guidance on raising issues/who to approach
- Would like more teachers to be involved with Y7 evening
- Generally happy with parents' evenings
- Telephone appointments for parents who cannot attend please
- Parent week – half an hour with each teacher/students let out of school early

**We have 3 tutor reports a year, 1 includes a tutor comment, and one parents' evening.
Does this provide sufficient feedback to parents ?**

- Tutor comment on each report with more detailed one at end of year.
- Reports are confusing.
- FFT totally confusing – is it really needed ?
- Just want to know what level they are at and how they can improve.
- Language grades are confusing.
- Keys for numbers too generalised
- We like primary school reports.
- Y7 parents think the planner provides good feedback.
- Y8 parent would like more feedback in planner
- Key issue is effective communication between home & school
- More parents' evenings for Y11
- Website should be updated regularly
- 3 reports and 3 parents' evenings please.
- Could have a « progress review » once a year with parents and child (other schools do) to say if child is on target and explain report and how they can meet their targets
- If special needs may need more advice/feedback.
- Would like info as new Y7 parent on website about who to contact if you are worried about something
- Y7 tutor evening gives us an early sense of what is going on – very good !
- The report is totally target led and doesn't celebrate achievement on a personal level. More focussed comment from tutor to allow student and parent to praise/discuss.
- Could you clarify what happens if teacher is ill ?

What is your opinion on having a narrative only from the form tutor once per year ?

- Not enough
- Would like a personal narrative every term – summary from the tutor is enough.
- Should be more personal to each child
- Fine
- Want narrative at end of year from each teacher. Students have missed how each teacher felt they'd improved over the year.
- Liked the old style booklet report
- Would like information on how targets are set and how children are put into different sets (north/south etc)
- Want to know which sets our children are in and why and which years they are put into sets for and which subjects.
- Should be more than once a year – got a shock when we found out about a problem in July last year.

What is your opinion regarding targets for improvement as opposed to general comments ?

- It's positive but parents' evening gives a better impression of how your child is doing.
- We would like to know what grades they should achieve for each subject (i.e where do they fit with national expectations)
- More to be aware of
- Much more useful for the child to have targets and also gives parents reassurance that tutors can back up their view.
- Targets more helpful than general comments.
- Want/need to know how individual's marks compare to rest of year group as well as previous individual targets.
- Want to know one's child is achieving as much as possible.
- Targets need explanation.
- We want explanation of targets in Y7 as can be difficult to interpret the system.
- Targets should be reviewed at the end of each academic year
- Both please
- Targets not personal enough
- If targets are not being met, specific recommendations on how to improve would be useful
- A tracking procedure should be in place so that if a child hasn't improved one or two levels from one key stage to the next or remained static – should be brought to parents' attention before year end.
- Both have a place - equal weight
- Could the targets be introduced at a consultation evening. Where is the booklet ?
- KS4 info evening should include stuff about organisation of KS4 curriculum e.g. how do sets work. Could this be on the website ?