



## Parents' Forum - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – 7pm to 8pm

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### Attendees:

Heidi Gale – Headteacher – Bramcote College  
Dr Paul Heery – Executive Principal – White Hills Park Trust  
Cathy Peacock – Chair- Bramcote College Local Governing Body  
Parents - of students in Key Stage 3,4 and 5

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Dr Heery, Heidi Gale and Cathy Peacock welcomed parents to the Parents Forum.

The intention is to schedule the forum on a termly basis to enable two-way communication between parents/carers and the College. The following points were discussed:

- 1) **Year 7 Transition** – Feedback was requested from Year 7 parents and how things had gone for them and their children and what the College could do to improve going forward.

Parents said their children were settled and happy. The following areas could be improved for future years:

Qs- **“Go for Schools”** – Parents did not know how to navigate the on-line system or how to interpret all the information provided. This sentiment was shared by other parents.

A – The College will arrange an information session at a future Parents' Forum and will incorporate this into next year's induction processes for Year 7 parents/carers.

Qs – Year 7's do not really understand the **INSPIRE points system** and how they gain positive/negative points.

As – Heidi Gale will arrange for teachers to recap with students the principles of the scheme and will also ask subject teachers to provide more explanation to students when points are awarded.

Qs – Could Year 7 parents/carers have **an induction pack** to help with their transition from primary to secondary school – it's a big jump for many parents, particularly those who miss the parents' information night in July.

As – Heidi Gale will liaise with Jenny Read, the Head of Year 7 transition. The first Year 7 coffee afternoon was a success but it was recognised that not all working parents could attend.

- 2) **Communication** – Parents fed back that generally communication could be improved. Heidi Gale shared that the College had been trying hard to secure e-mail addresses for all parents but in some cases hard copy letters were required to be sent – for example – when students were attending a trip and a proper consent signature had to be obtained by the parent/carer.

It was agreed that College would investigate how to increase the level of communication by:

- Sending more information electronically via e-mail or Go for Schools
- Multiple Year Group trips were being arranged – parents/carers could be informed via e-mail that their children should pick up letters if interested in attending
- Sign-posting the school calendar better to parents on Go for Schools and the provision of a forward planner with approximate costs could help. <https://bramcote.college/parents-and-students/calendar>

- 3) **Attainment and Progress** – Parents fed back that explanation was needed about how this was measured – particularly for Year 7 as the systems are very different from primary school. In summary:
  - Year 7 student initial targets are based on a blend of SATs and CATs tests
  - Teachers can change targets, so they are aspirational for an individual student

- Key Stage 3 (years 7,8 and 9) - the system of Mastery (categories of Emerging/Developing/Secured/Mastered) was introduced a few years ago and students will have a target set for each of their years at school. If for instance a child is achieving “secured” in a subject every year, it does mean he/she will have progressed as the assessment is made on that particular year’s work.
- Data has now just become available that is expected to show some broad banding of correlation between Mastery levels and GCSE results.
- Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) - there are three official data collection points in a school year but Heads of Department (subject Heads such as Maths or English) will update the system more frequently when assessment is carried out.
- School ethos is that assessments are used to signpost to students the next key areas of focus for future development and improvement – targets will be challenging and but will be based on the individual student’s potential.

The College will arrange an information session at a future Parents’ Forum and will incorporate this into part of the induction process for Year 7 parents/carers.

#### 4) **New School Building**

- The project is on track with planning permission expected to be given by Nottingham County Council by the new year. This is based on the initial design phase. Bramcote College has had a strong voice in the design phase and WHP Trust has accountability for delivery of the successful build.
- The building project is expected to take around 20 months to complete – the college is confident that the curriculum can be delivered effectively throughout this period and students will not suffer any detriment to their education.
- The safeguarding and safety of students and the sustainability of the future site has been at the heart of the design. It was confirmed that tree saplings were already being grown in school in readiness to, more than replace, the number of trees expected to be removed. The option for solar power was also being factored into the design but this would probably have to come at a later phase because of funding.

The College will show parents more detailed designs at the next Parent’s Forum.

#### 5) **Two-week October half term** – parent’s feedback was mixed. Some liked it and some didn’t. In summary:

- Term dates. There is a desire to keep in line with local primary schools where possible as it helps parents and teachers whose children go to other schools within Nottinghamshire.
- Very early indications are that the longer break seems to be helping reduce teacher and student absence due to sickness (teachers have also been offered the flu jab this year which has been taken up by a high proportion of staff)
- Students settled in very well after the break and the impact on Year 11 and 13 students is being reviewed as they effectively get one weeks less teaching time before their exams. However, the provision of the study lounge and school holiday revision clubs are expected to compensate for the majority of that time.
- It was recognised that childcare provision can be harder to secure during October and, when the new building is operational there may be an opportunity to provide some on- site service through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider.
- Inset Days – parents asked for as much notice as possible. These are set by the WHP Trust. Paul Heery has agreed to take the matter back to the Trust and ask it to approve the 20/21 dates as soon as possible.

#### **Next Parent’s Forum – 13th February 2020 – 6.30pm to 8pm**

Agenda Items agreed:

- Information sessions on Go-for Schools, Mastery and New GCSE grading assessment markings
- Sharing the Design and latest project update on the new college building
- Any Other Business – as notified by parents nearer the time. If parents would like to table any agenda items – please email [parents@bramcote.college](mailto:parents@bramcote.college) by the 6<sup>th</sup> February.