



PARENTS & TEACHERS FORUM

19th Jan 7:00pm



Topic: Parents Evening

Issue: Not enough appointments

- Some staff members have 3 or 4 groups in any one year group. There are 36 appointments available in an evening, so **it isn't possible to see everyone**
- **Additional nights are also not possible** due to a tight direct time schedule (*Directed time is when teachers are directed by their head teacher to be at work and available for work*)
- There are greater efficiencies to be had with parents evening and **Mr Goodwin has carried out a review recently with imminent changes to improve the experience for parents & pupils**

If you cannot see the teacher you want to see:

- **Parents are encouraged to email the teacher directly to ask for feedback**
- If it is preferred or needed, it is also possible to arrange a 121 telephone call

Issue: We need regular updates on our child's progress

- **BVGS follow government guidelines for reporting to parents.** They report 3 times p/year in terms of report cards. In addition there is parents evening & the welcome evening
- **If you want to know how your child is doing – talk to them and look in their books** – you'll see whether they are engaged or not
- **Everyone will do a minimum of 3 big assessments per year in each subject in KS3** – some departments will do more due to contact time (e.g. English/maths). Each have clear targets and feedback
- **If you have concerns, please email the teacher.** Mr Robson "it is really important that parents feel able to do that, do not sit on it.... Speak to us to get a solution"

Q: As parents we do not get guidance on where kids should be, can we have some?

- **For the first report in year 7 or 8, you should not worry if your child is "working towards"** at that point
- All staff decide where they expect children to be at the END of year 7, 8 & 9 for BVGS and the associated high standards & high expectations of this school.
- **If a child is hitting "meeting expectations" by the end of the academic year, they are doing exactly what they need to do.**
- **Scores (%s) are avoided on reports (and shouldn't be compared across subjects after tests) as each subject will have different expectations** – 60% in one might be better than 80% in another
- Schools do not have National Curriculum levels in KS3 – each school sets their own. **BVGS are very confident in theirs due to progress and GCSE/A Level results so if they are "meeting" they are doing "very well"**
- Boys are informed of the levels after test scores are given out
- Recognised it can be tough for boys, having come from primary school where they may well have been top of the class, but now no longer because of the exceptional students across the intake... that doesn't mean they are doing badly though
- **If students aren't "meeting" at this point in the year (post-Christmas), then there will already be some sort of intervention in place, which could just be a matter of additional support within the classroom. The other element to look at is a boy's attitude to learning which is just as important.** If those are aligned, then you can expect your son to be in the right place.
- The report on a report card is not just the outcome of a physical assessment in class. **The child as a whole will be looked at, not just the assessment.**



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Topic: Homework/Academic Development

Issue: How do we (as parents) know they are doing enough at home?

- Have a set time when your child does their homework
- **If they say they have no homework they should revise.** Revision = make prompt cards, make notes, mind maps – whichever way your child learns. However revision shouldn't just be reading their exercise & textbooks
- **If they really do not have any homework, they should be reading (a fiction book) for a minimum of 30 minutes per day**
- Revision & revision techniques are covered:
 - Year 7: in Thrive/PSHE
 - Year 11 & Sixth Form: in the weekly form time
 - Other year groups: via assemblies
- BVGS plan to summarise some recent research into memory and how children learn to support parents

Q: Is there some way to introduce a mentoring/buddy system for revision on the basis many children learn from older siblings

- BVGS already use mentoring to shape a lot of practise – Yr. 11 have L6 buddies. Welcome evenings in Yrs. 10 & 11 and revision assemblies are hosted by older students

Issue: I can't get SIMS to work

- BVGS IT believe in most cases the issues arise due to inactivity which then logs/locks parents out. **So the ask is for parents to use SIMS regularly.**
- If SIMS is not working, Mr Robson will act as an advocate, so it is acceptable to email Mr Robson's PA (Natalie Harris) on n.harris@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk Mr Robson will forward those concerns onto the IT team.

Topic: Toilets

Issue: The condition and cleanliness of toilets needs looking at

- There are 6 toilet blocks for boys, for 1100+ students. Within each block there are 5 cubicles and 7/8 urinals. There is a lot of wear & tear and usage.
- **The toilets are cleaned every day and throughout the day and are "fundamentally sound".** They are checked by the cleaning team, the caretaker at the end of the day and Mr Robson has personally checked the toilets on 4 occasions since the start of the spring term – before students arrive and at the end of the day.
- **Mr Robson's view is that the cleaning is fine and there is nothing wrong with toilet cleanliness, unfortunately the problems arise from users.** There are a lot of factors that contribute to the cleanliness of toilets. Two fundamental problems are young men's aim at the urinal and flushing after using the toilet. **So please remind students of toilet etiquette and for them to be mindful of who comes next. Empathy is a regular theme of the pastoral programme.**
- In terms of improving response times to toilet related issues, **the student council have produced a poster in every toilet outlining how and who to raise issues regarding the toilets.**
- **School are however cognisant that this isn't a trivial topic and, in some cases, can be a welfare issue.** So, it is important that the regular cleaning cycle and maintenance programme continues as well as users using them well with care and respect. **If students see an issue, they should report it. BVGS will keep at it, and it will always be on the agenda.**



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Topic: Residential

Issue: Across year 7, 8, & 9 student & parents would like to see more residential

- BVGS (Mr Robson) can see a very strong argument why residential should form part of their educational visits. So, **the aim is to make sure every student within years 7, 8 & 9 have at some point within an academic year had some sort of residential trip.**
- Recognise that year 9 have been hit by the pandemic so **BVGS (Mr White – Head of Yr9) have been looking the options for a residential trip at the end of the academic year.** However, this must be right in terms of quality & price point.
- **Currently market conditions are not favourable** as there is a long tail of schools looking to make up for lost time due to the pandemic & availability that fits around the curriculum is difficult.
- Year 9 - they will guarantee an activity/team building with two trips of half the year (90 & 90).
- **The cut off point will be February half term for arranging any possible residential, to allow for payment plans etc.**

Issue: trips should be accessible to all, not just for part of the year group

- In year 8, there is a trip for English, History & Art (90 places available). So far 57% (109) have expressed interest in the trip but some students may also be going on a music tour, junior rugby/hockey tour. **Important to recognise that opportunities won't suit everyone.**
- **BVGS recognise there is a place for certain opportunities to be whole year (e.g., Symphony Hall, Year 7 residential etc).** Certain things have to be a choice

Topic: Communication

Issue: Where should we send our concerns & comments to?

- **A subject/departmental issue** - email the teacher
- **A pastoral issue** – email Head of Year
- **Safeguarding** – email Miss Steadman
- **Other issues** – email enquiry@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk

Issue: How do we get better/accurate updates on homework?

- Get your son's log in for Teams, its his school account, so no issue.
- **If homework is given out that ISN'T on Teams, email the Head of Year - school will pick up with the individual teacher - all homework should be on Teams.**

Issue: How do I report absence?

- 1) Phone
- 2) Email: attendance@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk Office staff pick this up and dealt with completely confidentially. 3 or 4 support staff work on attendance each morning and is probably easier for parents than waiting on the phone

Q: What are the current guidelines re: a positive test for COVID?

- Government guidelines are around living with COVID. COVID is treated in the same way as a cold or flu.
- How that translates to BVGS is it **boils down to the basic principle of:**
 - **If your child is ill, keep them at home**
 - **If your child is well, send them in**



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Topic: Sport

Issue: How/when are parents allowed to attend and watch sports matches at school?

- **BVGS are trying to run a school safely for 1,350 children and 120 staff. The reality is if parents were allowed to watch fixtures it would be a logistical nightmare.**
- The senior team all have things to do in terms of safely managing the site. Every time parents come on to watch something they would have to manage carefully the ingress of parents, checking who is on site, management of parents on site, and getting them off as well.
- **Parents are allowed on for a special occasion e.g. a national cup match. On a regular basis the answer has to be no** due to the fact that when the school is in operation, school do not have the capacity to manage parents on site to the level of safeguarding required. It is different at the weekend as the main body of school isn't in
- **Ultimately its about keeping our children safe**

Q: Is there an opportunity for boys who missed school team selection to break into selection at a later date?

- Speak to the teacher (e.g. Mr Cains for Rugby) and ask to be given an opportunity to impress. **BVGS don't treat it as a closed shop so please ask for an opportunity to be reconsidered.**
- **There is also an opportunity to be identified in PE/Games lessons.** With 192 boys, school will miss students initially so they will use the lessons to review students.
- **School are looking at providing more opportunities in a range of sports – e.g. basketball.**

Topic: Miscellaneous

Topic: Teacher Strikes:

- The advice from Government is to stay open if they can.
- **1st February – BVGS will “definitely be open fully”.** There are very few members of staff who are members of the NEU and of those that are, not many will be on strike anyway.
- It should cause very little disruption to school and comms from Mr Robson will follow

Q: What does it mean when a class is “under report”?

- BVGS will track all the behaviour points and they term it a positive behaviour report – they are looking for positive behaviour to be demonstrated. **If they believe there is a concentration of disruptive behaviour in the class which is impacting the learning, they will track the class** because BVGS will not tolerate a cohort being disrupted by a minority of students in the class
- **It is a zero tolerance on low level disruption.** It is better to go on the front foot than wait for issues to escalate.
- **If school feel there are specific behaviour issues within a year group then these will be addressed through the PSHE programme.**
- School don't just want students to leave with 9 A*s at GCSE, **they want them to leave as holistic person with the right behaviours.**