

Notes from Parents' Forum Meeting – Thursday 22 June 2023

Aim: Exploring our assessment, recording, and reporting systems as we consider what is working and what needs rethinking as we prepare for the next academic year. Update on our communication plan and an opportunity to preview our new school website for September 2023!

The notes below reflect discussions during the meeting interspersed with e-mail contributions both before and after the meeting via parents@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk

What do you want to know in your child's report?

- Social comments including wellbeing.
- Are they trying (effort)? Are they behaving on track?
- Updated live assessments so that the Virtual School is current and not missing information.
- Don't want surprises on Subject Review Evenings – any reports or feedback on Virtual School should ensure teachers can give indications of any concern. How can teachers flag when something is wrong?
- Could a tutor comment be built in at the start of the year? A social comment from a tutor allows a parent/carers to support the academic success.

AMs/BMs

- Teacher comments very minimal on AMs/BMs. How can we share more detail?
- Is there a cap on the AMs? Consistent approach to awarding across the subjects/teachers for both AMs and BMs needed.

Autumn Term 2023 - Mrs Laing shared ideas being considered for Autumn 2023

- Start to the year report, every subject. Have the students started the year meeting expectations. If no, give comment. Will include AMs, BMs and attendance.
- Subject Review not until the spring term.
- Could include a tutor report: settled in, socialising well, no cause for social concern?

Subject Review - Mrs Laing shared feedback from parent/carer poll on Subject Reviews moving forward. Should these be face-to-face or online?

- 50/50 response so far on whether Subject Review should be online or face-to-face.
- How feasible is offering both?
- Could KS3 be online with additional opportunities? KS4 face-to-face? Or flip?
- Key thing is to meet the teachers, face to a name. Greater need in KS3 when new parents/carers and new teachers to students.
- Parents/carers value opportunities to be in the school building.
- Whether online or face-to-face - need to ensure follow-ups if appointments not possible or cancelled.

Parents' Forum

- How do we gauge the wider parent/carer population? Parent/carer survey at start of autumn term?
- How do we include follow-up at the start of each Parents' Forum? Five minutes at the start of each meeting?

Communication Update

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- Any better: improved newsletter, e-mail and communication between teacher, termly assessments.
- Ensure any cancelled clubs are communicated to students and parents/carers with sufficient time to organise transport.
- Staff e-mail addresses – can these be shared? Need to include contact details for EST?
- FAQs vs contact link.
- Uniform - can we share more details, photos, etc.
- Calendar on the website including events and clubs.
- How do messages to students get to parents/carers - could we share PowerPoint for Sports Day, for example, so parents have opportunity to know key messages.
- Logistics of music lessons, clubs and teamsheets - how can these be more accessible to parents/carers.
- Inclusivity for all students - how can messages to parents/carers help them support pupils.
- Inclusivity - have we gone through the new website?
- Just uniform - not boys or girls. Comment from religious/cultural clothing ... 'contact the school'.
- Should there be a 'triage' for parents/carers contacting teachers including escalation. Slow response to teacher e-mails: child to teacher and parent/carer to teacher. How do we utilise further the secretary@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk e-mail address? Not in school/out of office response on e-mail for staff so parents/carers know if response is going to be slow.

Student Council

- Ensure students have a voice to articulate.
- Student Council role.