



Virtual Parents' Forum
8.00 a.m. Friday 17th June 2022

Mrs Kerry Cooney – Headteacher
Mrs Lynne Finucane – Assistant Headteacher, Learning & Achievement
Mrs Sheila Allport – PA to Headteacher & Senior Leadership Team (note taker)

15 parents attended the forum

		ACTION BY
	Mrs Cooney welcomed the parents to the Parents' Forum and thanked them for giving up their time to attend and for the wide range of questions that they had submitted which were answered during the meeting.	
1.	Autumn Term - September return dates Monday 5th September – Staff Training day Tuesday 6th September – Staff Training day Wednesday 7th September - Y7/Y12 students induction day Thursday 8th September - All other year groups to return to school (pastoral day, photographs, timetables, logging onto computers) Friday 9 th September – Normal lessons/timetables	
2.	Ofsted – Plans and Priorities Since the Ofsted report was published, a new school development plan has been written which focuses upon the priority key areas highlighted within the Ofsted report to ensure that each area is addressed:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Curriculum ● Assessment ● Post 16 ● Careers ● Governance Every section is equally important and a different member of SLT is taking responsibility for each section.	
3.	King Edward VI Merger The reason that KEVI was selected as the best fit for Lordswood Girls' School was because of the autonomy that will remain with the school and the Governing Body will remain within LGS. The main changes that students will notice will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uniform - Collaborative events 	

	<p>The advantages of being part of KEVI includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economies of scale - leaving more money for school improvement - Sharing of good practice - In school support - Centralised services, HR and Finance, leaving more time for staff to support students. 	
4.	<p>Assessment</p> <p>Ofsted feedback focused upon formative assessment in lessons, e.g. questioning techniques, low stakes testing. There will be ongoing CPD sessions in these areas for staff over the next year.</p> <p>There are no immediate plans to change our marking policy as this was not highlighted as a concern.</p> <p>The two main areas of focus (due to feedback from students and parents) are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The target setting policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - targets students to be in the top 20% of the country, we feel this should be in the top 5% of the country given the schools historical results. - currently targets cannot be moved e.g. if a student unachieved in their KS2 SATs they will have lower target grades for their whole time at LGS. ● The reporting policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as parent/student feedback indicates that families would appreciate more information, e.g. how far they are away from their target grades. <p>We will be adjusting the assessment schedule so that it prepares students better for the pressures of external examinations, e.g. some exams will take place in the gym, spaced out assessment weeks, accumulatory assessments.</p>	
	<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teaching staff have received training on cognitive load theory. - Lead professionals are being encouraged to visit other schools to see examples of good practice. - By the Summer all departments will have had a departmental review to highlight areas for development. Many of these will have been conducted by external reviewers. - We are working with the Director for Education from KEVI to support Lead Professionals in reviewing their current curriculum. - We are moving to centralised documentation for curriculum planning so it is easier to quality assure AND share with parents (feedback from Parents' Evenings questionnaires). 	
	<p>Revision materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We provide revision materials where we can, however due to the number of subjects and students we cannot afford to supply students with revision books. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are revision materials in the library if students cannot purchase them themselves. - Students are provided with a range of revision materials via google classroom and in lessons - All teachers weave in revision techniques in to their lessons - This year we trialled a revision training session delivered by an outside organisation. This was well received, this year we plan to offer this to students earlier in the year to ensure impact. 	
	<p>Place2Be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place2Be is a service that we pay for as a school. Not all schools provide a counselling service. - We have a large number of counsellors working in the school but the need is currently outstripping supply due to post COVID and long waiting lists from external agencies. - A meeting took place last week with Place2Be to explore strategies to reduce the waiting list and the following were discussed:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better use of Place to Talk - Introduction of group sessions - Preventative measures e.g. presentation by the STICK team, lessons, Apps - Referrals to other mental health services, e.g. Papyrus, The Mix, Young minds, Anxiety UK, Self-harm support - We are currently training a member of staff to be a school mental health lead. - Continue to lobby BCC for improved mental health services for young people. 	
	<p>Community Language GCSEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We do not teach community languages at school, but often, with the support of parents and community groups, offer students the opportunity to sit these exams in school. - The limiting factor is often finding someone to conduct the speaking component. <p>If this is of interest, please contact the examinations officer (Alison Evans) who will be able to provide more information.</p>	
	<p>Make up</p> <p>This was only mentioned by a very small number of parents/students during the recent uniform consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make-up continues to be disallowed on the new uniform policy as it is difficult to enforce once you allow this as one person's 'small amount' is another person's 'heavy' makeup. - If there are medical reasons for the use of make-up, please contact your child's Achievement Co-ordinator to discuss individual needs. 	

	<p>Parental involvement with school</p> <p>Parental involvement is an area that we are keen to explore and details appeared on the Parent Bulletin a few weeks ago. The challenges associated with this include the administration required and the time it takes to obtain enhanced DBS certificates.</p> <p>If you do have a careers skill that you would like to offer, then please contact Rose McInerney who can explore options with you.</p>	
	<p>Online Parents' Evenings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last year the previous Headteacher undertook Parent Voice to obtain feedback about the online Parents' Evenings system. ● It was reported that there was overwhelming support for this system to continue. The reasons provided included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faster (no queuing) - Fairer (no overrunning) - Easier to fit in/around family life ● Attendance at Parents' Evenings has been higher since the online system was introduced. ● The same amount of time is allocated per appointment as in a 'live' Parents' Evening. ● We will continue to periodically review this to ensure that the system is still effective. ● We are starting to hold school events to support parents' connection with the school and we plan to expand these opportunities next year e.g. STICK team, revision sessions, plays, curriculum evenings, options evenings. 	
	<p>Parents' Forum</p> <p>As a new Headteacher I have continued with the Parents' Forum in the same format that the previous Headteacher had set up. I have never worked in a school before that offers a regular Parents' Forum and therefore I continued with the previously 'tried and tested' model for my first year in the role.</p> <p>Parent numbers are limited to 20 due to the time required to deal with the numerous questions asked. If more than 20 parents' had signed up then additional sessions would have been arranged. Next year we can experiment with different times and structures to see if they are more effective.</p>	
	<p>Mrs Cooney thanked the parents for attending the Parents' Forum and advised that if anyone has any further questions or suggestions, to please contact the Headteacher's PA, Sheila Allport - s.allport@lordswoodtrust.co.uk who will arrange a response.</p> <p>The powerpoint presentation displayed during the Parents' Forum has been circulated to the attendees.</p>	