

Parents' Forum, 7 June 2023

A summary of the comments and suggestions made by parents/carers in response to the following questions.

Q1. AMBITION

How can we further promote academic ambition/aspiration at the school?

- Greater exposure to industry experts, e.g. at Careers Fair
- Use role models to make ambition and aspiration 'cool'
- Clearer expectations around revision – engage and involve parents
- More involvement of SFH6 students (and maybe Year 11 students) with KS3, e.g. speaking in assembly, mentoring, reading buddies
- Bring back alumni to talk about their careers and education choices
- Regular sharing of achievements during assemblies
- Aspirational talks from people within the community from all walks of life – particularly those who have really worked hard and put in a lot of effort to get where they are/make money
- Talks from people who learned from 'failure' or took risks, or perhaps changed direction or career later in life
- More immediate rewards, merits, praise cards, etc. – especially with homework
- Further developing house point system to recognise achievements outside of school
- Offer more clubs, in particular, IT/coding/programming
- Ask students what they think we could do to further promote ambition and aspiration
- Provide career mentors for students, e.g. for those who could be 'first in family'
- More day trips related to subjects even if just very local
- Link ambition to hard work and completion of homework
- More opportunities to learn about careers in the wider world
- Trips to universities to see life beyond school

Q2. BEHAVIOUR

How we can improve student wellbeing during unstructured time, e.g. breaktimes and lunchtimes, to ensure they are ready to learn upon returning to the classroom?

- Keep unstructured play!
- Keep students busy with more activities and equipment
- Think about possible ways to help cut down queuing for food
- New clubs, e.g. chess? Gaming? Lego? Basketball? Boxing?
- Provide a quiet room with videos
- Provide sports coaches/mentors at lunchtime (donations based)
- Alternate sport opportunities each day
- More outside tables
- Use of the gym
- Geocaching in the school grounds

Q3. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Please discuss any new ideas and/or initiatives for keeping parents involved with the school and fully informed with what is going on.

- Use parents/carers to talk about their careers/professions (links in with Ambition question)
- Create an FHS 'Army of Volunteers'
- Continue with Academic Review Day
- Give parents opportunity to meet their child's tutor
- Make it possible for parents to comment on homework
- Combine events with consultation
- More opportunities to meet teachers/staff in person – both formally and informally
- Better communication about staff changes
- Year group events for students, parents and teachers
- More social events to enable parents to meet each other
- Timing of coffee mornings is difficult for some parents
- Head of Year updates with year group specific information

Q4. OTHER

Do you have any other suggestions for how we can improve your and your child's experience of Forest Hill School?

- Emotional awareness course for students
- Mandatory attendance for school trips, e.g. theatre
- Support with reducing screen time with younger students – more information about health problems associated with phone use and ideas for how to enjoy life outside their phones; parent survey to check hours of phone use and use this to demonstrate to students how much they could have done/learned during this time
- Discussion clubs for students – debating, philosophy, etc.
- Use Show my Homework as a Parent communication tool for feedback
- Regular reminders of school online learning subscriptions and passwords
- A club timetable pinned up in the school so students can see what clubs happen when and where
- Recommended textbooks for KS3 to help with revision and homework so parents can buy these if helpful (we could fundraise to purchase for disadvantaged students)