

# ***Parents Forum: Communications & Engagement***

***12 June 2024***

## ***Summary of Discussions***

### **What works well?**

The weekly bulletin  
The half termly newsletter  
New homework booklets  
Parents appreciate the variety of communication channels  
Parents value the opportunity to come into school and talk to staff

### **What doesn't work so well?**

Parents' evenings – still a split between parents wanting in-person or online  
MCAS App – some parents have difficulty with logging in; others not using it/not sure how to use it  
Lots of different apps for parents to use and understand  
Confusion around Satchel:One and Seneca and the checking of homework  
Readability of some of the resources  
Timing of communications – not always enough notice; parents not always available to attend  
School calendar not always up to date  
Progress reports – would like to see qualitative comments

### **New suggestions and ideas**

Social events calendar for the year  
More information about events after they have happened  
Opportunity to meet teachers at the beginning of the year  
Walkthroughs/Assistance with apps  
Dads communications – e.g. WhatsApp group, Dads breakfast  
Get parents to help out with school trips  
Host first parents' evening in Year 7 in person then switch to online  
Language translation for written communications (or guidance for this)  
A staff contact list for different queries  
Parent workshops  
Subject-focused in-person events  
Opportunities to see students in lessons  
Showcases of students' work  
Reward cards for less obvious aspects of school  
Parent portal on school website including links to WhatsApp groups, FAQs, chat function

## Coping with the pressure

We do want to avoid students becoming over stressed and worrying too much.

*\*Taken from NHS Choices – Coping with exam stress*

## Useful websites

- <http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/SchoolCollege/Pages/exam-stress.aspx>
- [https://www.thecalmzone.net/help/get-help/exam-stress/?gclid=CjwKEAiAi52mBRDkq5bX0vq1-RQSJAAq\\_7IGX\\_zwV3dgcEIsl6MTvNCH0G4XtVS9oKPW6XGD08QUrBoCaUXw\\_wcB](https://www.thecalmzone.net/help/get-help/exam-stress/?gclid=CjwKEAiAi52mBRDkq5bX0vq1-RQSJAAq_7IGX_zwV3dgcEIsl6MTvNCH0G4XtVS9oKPW6XGD08QUrBoCaUXw_wcB)

## Basic guide to revision

There are 3 main steps to revision:

- Make sure that you understand the work
- Make a revision resource, e.g. flash cards or mind maps and test yourself
- Test yourself a few days later and repeat

Before you start, make sure that you know what to learn by using the checklist.

Spread your revision out over a few weeks and do not try to cram the information in at the last minute.

Do not spend too long on one topic.

When you test yourself:

1. Do not look at the flash cards or mind map to start with.
2. If you have flash cards with questions on one side, then ask yourself the question or get somebody else to and then see if you are correct. Give yourself time to think about the answer – the longer you take, the more you will remember.

An alternative to this, is to write down everything you can remember about a topic and to then check to see if you are correct, and fill in the information you have forgotten.

3. Remember to come back to the topic again in a few days time and to repeat the process.