

Brune Park Community College

PARENT FEEDBACK - Thursday 14th July 2011

112 people attended. 46 written responses were received. Some of these were completed by groups of parents so represent the views of more than one person.

Reference: Few= 3 or less responses Some=between 4 and 10 responses. Many=More than 10 written responses.

How we report to you about your child's progress and attainment.

Frequency of reporting:

Many parents felt that termly interim reports are needed with a bit more detail if possible. A few parents suggested that this should include information on behaviour and action to be taken if the child is below target.

A few parents asked if there could be reports followed by parents evening (a week apart)

Some parents would like to see two Parents' Evenings for every year group. Others suggested more informal opportunities to speak to the teacher where there are concerns; perhaps every term.

A few parents suggested an increase to two tutor contact points or more opportunity to talk to tutors personally, especially before the end of the first term of any year.

A few parents said that the gap before the Year 9 Parents' Evening is too long as parents want to know how the option subjects are going.

Some parents said that reports should be sent out well before the summer break to give time for parents to follow up any issues with individual teachers or tutors.

A few parents suggested that there should be a full report within three months of any year to identify areas of weakness and another written report at the end of the year to show progress.

Content of written reports:

A few parents asked if there could be more information about levels/grades and guidance on what level their child should be achieving against wider data (national / the rest of their year group).

Many parents felt that reports should be made more personal to the child and several commented that they had received reports with clear errors.

There was a general feeling that more detail was needed on the reports, although a few said that they were happy with the content. A few parents suggested that some comments didn't seem to mean anything and that they were not specific enough. There is not enough information on what their child can do to progress (including what books to purchase etc).

A few parents commented on the targets; these need to be revised if the child has achieved their target grade. It was also pointed out that targets can vary widely on reports, with no explanation why. One response suggested that levels from previous years need to be seen so that progress can be identified.

Other comments:

Not enough feedback for students with SEN.

Teachers should not leave the gym until all parents have been spoken to.

Appointments for parents should be booked online, rather than relying on the child.

There should be more time between Parents' Evening for Year 8 and the deadline for decisions to be made about options.

More than 5 minutes should be given at Parents' Evenings.

The College Homework Policy

Communication with parents:

Many parents said that a homework timetable needs to be given to parents so that homework can be monitored by the parent. Some asked if homework could be accessible on the website for parents to read and a few mentioned that it would be helpful if books were sent home for monitoring purposes.

Many parents said that they need information on what homework their child has received, when it is due and notification if homework is not completed. They would like to know either through the diary system (some) or by e-mail. (some)

Some parents asked for feedback on homework and parent questions answered in diaries by teachers.

A few parents emphasised that the use of diaries needs to be a commitment by parents and teachers.

Diaries need to be seen and signed off by teachers every week.

A few parents asked teachers to make sure that homework is written in diaries before the child leaves the classroom and that enough time be given to write in down.

Frequency of homework:

Some parents said that more homework should be given, regardless of ability. This should be marked and returned promptly.

A few parents suggested that students should stay at College for 30 minutes at the end of each day to complete homework. A few parents thought that we shouldn't set homework just for the sake of it and that it should be to extend learning, not just to finish off tasks.

Other comments:

The English comprehension booklets that get sent home for students to complete for homework are good. There should be a system of reward Vivos for completion of homework.

A small amount of English, Maths and Science should be sufficient for homework.

It would be helpful if homework could be sent electronically to the teacher.

More fundamentals need to be covered (writing skills) in homework tasks.

Notes on how homework is to be submitted is helpful (like History and Geography).

Some parents said that they didn't really view homework as absolutely necessary.

One response said that project homework is good. Another response disagreed with this approach.

Homework should not be set in holidays.

Access to your child's College records:

Some parents commented that the parent portal access looked good.

A few said that only basic information should be given via this system; many said that attendance should be accessible; some said that basic details on student events are helpful and a few said that the timetable was important to see.

Many liked the sound of graphs showing student progress/attainment. This should show progress from Year 7

A few parents commented that the information would need to be regularly updated for it to be useful.

A few parents wanted to be informed of lateness and non-attendance as soon as possible.

Other comments:

Could there links to online learning guides?

Could there be scores displayed for how well student behaved in class (like the report cards)?

Could there be information about additional activities like Music lessons?

Could there be a link to something that explains the grading structure?

Information about subjects

Many parents thought the overview of what was being studied was a good idea and needed for each year group. A few said that it should be available electronically rather than paper copies sent to parents.

One response said that Years 10 and 11 need a breakdown of each half term with revision points for each subject. One response said that assessment dates need to be given also and available for parents to see.

A few parents commented that the information about each subject should be kept simple with clear terminology. The inclusion of dates was important for some parents but not important for a few.

Many parents liked the layout of the Maths and History overview of topics.

A few said that English and Maths should have more detail than other subjects and one response suggested that maybe each subject should have a different layout.

Other comments:

One response suggested a Parents' Open Evening to come and view books etc.

One other response asked for dates when cooking ingredients are required to be added to the information.

Specific targets for each topic are needed and information about how lack of progress will be addressed should these targets not be met.

Any other comments, including topics for future meetings.

How do other schools address homework and College records?

A few parents suggested that we need to improve the image of the College; more media involvement and celebration of student success is needed.

Some parents asked that discipline, inside and outside of the classroom, is addressed.

Detentions. They should be for the full time, not send the child home 10 minutes after they have arrived.

They should also be used constructively. 24/36 hours notice is needed for detentions. Sometimes the letters arrive after the detention.

Some parents expressed the view that parent meetings are worthwhile.

Some parents would like us to tackle the smoking issue more effectively.

There were a few parents who said that data needs to be updated. Linked to this, a few parents said that on

BP anytime subjects are sometimes blank or have not been updated. Work is needed for when the College is closed.

Many parents asked for an e- mail contact list for staff, available at the beginning of each year.

Some parents commented that it is difficult to get through to the College by telephone. A few parents commented that if a message is left the College should make more of an effort to get back to the parent.

A few parents commented that more text books are needed to support learning at home. One response said that there is too much reliance on the internet for homework tasks. Children get distracted.

A few parents commented that there are some staff who are teaching subjects and are not qualified. This is worrying. Information about where the school is having problems employing qualified teachers should be made available to parents

Other comments:

Policies should be upheld every time; otherwise what is the point of the policy?

Information about exams should go directly to the parents and not through the child.

Why are students being given free pizza and yet the school is not funding net books next year?

Mobile phones should be banned completely.

Road safety is an issue.

More information is needed prior to Year 8 options evening

Staff need to attend more events at the College (Performing Arts events etc).

Feedback on new vertical tutoring is needed.

There should be more College trips.

Some teachers need to be more positive

Outer uniform (gloves/hats etc) needs to be addressed.

The 'grey' children are still not being rewarded for their work.

Letters should not be sent out on a Friday as parents cannot talk to anyone about any issues arising from correspondence until Monday.

Ancient languages should be offered in options; there is a need to increase the amount of language options available.

A few parents are asking if we allow students to give their views.

Positive comments:

'I am very pleased with School. '

'After School activities are good.'

'I feel that there are a lot of fantastic, inspirational teachers in this school and I hope that morale is being kept up, so some of these teachers will not leave the school. A lot of them, in my experience have gone that extra mile for my children.'