

Notes from FAB Meeting: Wednesday 6th March 2024

Staff attended: M Hoffmann, Principal (MH), P Hudson, Vice Principal (PH), C Reed, Director of Business & Support Services (CR)

Parents attended: 10

Item	Comments	Actions arising?
Welcome from MH	Parents were welcomed with refreshments. MH opened with the introduction of Pete Hudson, Vice Principal who attended to talk about Options/KS4 Curriculum and Parents Evenings.	

<p>Options/KS4 Curriculum and Parents Evenings - PH</p>	<p>PH prepared a presentation for this item (shared online alongside minutes). The presentation contained a brief overview of each subject.</p> <p>Curriculum slides:</p> <p>Parent question - Science is split into double and triple, what's the difference?</p> <p>PH - The Head of Science will decide if a student is entered for double or triple based on attainment up to Year 9. Normally we have 2 classes of separates (Triple) . Whichever option a student takes, makes no difference to next steps (Sixth Form/A Levels/Degrees etc) it's more for raising achievement for students that do really well and enjoy Science.</p> <p>Parent question - How do the exams work for these?</p> <p>PH - The exams still cover all 3 science topics but for the double there are 6 papers and for the triple there are 9 papers.</p> <p>Options:</p> <p>Year 9 into Year 10 transition year into Options is a very important year for students and often overlooked.</p> <p>PH - showed parents the Options section of the website - https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org/our-curriculum/year-9-options/</p> <p>PH - Most students get their first choices regarding Options, on average 97% get all their top choices - approx 8 students will not get both first and second choice. PH will meet with those students 1:1 to</p>	<p>Action - CR - Upload PH presentation slides to the website alongside FAB minutes</p>
--	---	--

	<p>discuss. We purposely keep the letter confirming Options to send out later in the summer term so students don't disengage with subjects they know they aren't taking next year.</p> <p>For 2024/25, based on parental feedback, we have decided to remove compulsory Languages from the Options process for the first time. Language will now move to an Option choice so this removes a GCSE. Overall students will now only do 8 or 9 GCSE's and not 10 as they have done in previous years. Most schools only do 8.</p> <p>Parent question - How many students passed the Language GCSE last year?</p> <p>MH - Approx only 30%. The school was following the Government guidance on EBACC's but when we saw a pattern of other schools not following suit, we decided to revise our curriculum for this year. However, our Language dept has improved and is now really strong, led by a fantastic and proactive Subject coordinator and we have also been able to reintroduce German. Based on Options choices this year, about 30% have so far chosen Languages as an option which is really good.</p> <p>Parent question - So if a student wants to do more than one language as an option, they now won't get another free option?</p> <p>PH - Yes, correct. But this would be the same as the Performing Arts choices, IT/Computer Science, Sports, some of the DT's etc. We have such a big cohort of students with different abilities and attainment ranges that we offer Options split so that some are heavily exam based and some are heavily coursework based.</p> <p>Parent question - Food Tech is no longer on the Options list, has this now been replaced with Hospitality?</p>	
--	--	--

PH - Yes, we reviewed the Options courses and updated this course as it's more appropriate for the local area and current environment as a vocational course.

Construction was also introduced last year and is proving to be a very popular course. We purposely currently run it with 2 small groups so that the students have time to use the resources and learn in smaller groups with the teacher.

Parent question - Why was Business Studies removed as an Option?

PH - GCSE results were not very good for Business Studies but improved at A Level so we are targeting A Levels students with the Business Studies course. We have replaced Travel & Tourism at GCSE which contains some of the Business Studies content. Again, Travel & Tourism fits with the local area.

Parent question - There doesn't seem to be Options Block anymore?

PH - Yes, this gives more choice for students, without trying to fit within a block of other Options. Although this is harder for staff to timetable, we have decided this is a much better option for students as there will no longer be many clashes (apart from B Tech PE/PE, History/Ancient History etc). Students will still pick from Geography and History and then pick their top 2 Options from the list as a whole, which we will then work to timetable.

Parent question - What is the difference between History and Ancient History?

Ancient History -

<https://budmouth.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/11/GCSE-Ancient-History-Spec.pdf>

History -

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-history-specification.pdf>

Parent comment - We were blown away by the recent Options Evening and lots of other parents agreed. Good videos and resources, teachers were interactive but more importantly honest with students and parents about course content, especially the Health and Social Care Team - well done!

Parent question - Are all the big changes to the Options process finished now? So parents of lower school children can start looking at Options from Year 8 etc?

MH - They should largely remain the same but they are reviewed every year with some small changes likely.

Progress 8 and Targets:

PH - From Sept 24 (for current our Year 10's), there is no data due to Covid and these students not doing their Year 6 SATs, therefore this will impact the way the data is worked out for their targets. The current Year 10's will have targets in Year 11 as the school will set them based on attainment in Year 10.

Parent comment - Target grades for Year 11's can be soul destroying.

PH - Unfortunately the school is duty bound to share data with parents/students but parents just need to reassure their children to just do the best they can.

We have now removed target grades for both Year 10 & 12 but they need to remain for Year 11 students so students and staff have something to aim for in GCSE year.

Parent comment - Students going from Year 10 into Year 11 without target grades could feel this is more of a shock and parents could be helping students with low target grades earlier on in Year 10 if aware.

MH - We are trying to come up with a system that suits all. Teachers will still know student's target grades and be helping them work towards these. We have found that if students go through Year 10 with disappointing target grades, they tend not to want to do any better for themselves.

There are only 3 grading systems the school can use:

1. No targets
2. Targets all through
3. Targets held back and then adjusted accordingly towards the end of Year 10 based on attainment.

So we are trying to find a solution that best finds students/parents and students can (and do) even make up grades between mocks and real exams, with hardwork.

Intervention:

PH - Explained the difference between intervention and revision:

Intervention - School informs parents (intervenes) to get targeted students progress up.

Revision - Open to all

	<p>Parent comment - Year 10 son has tutor time intervention which is brilliant but worries he misses key information given out at tutor time.</p> <p>MH - It is the tutors job to catch up with students and catch them up with any information missed in tutor time.</p> <p>PH - We had over 300 Year 11 students registered for Revision Club/Intervention over Feb half term. Easter's programme is currently being worked on. There will be clashes as we cannot force staff to come in and run these sessions so unfortunately, some subjects will run on the same days/times. However, students can dip in/out sessions as long as they are in a session whilst in school and not messing around on site like we have had recently.</p> <p>Parent question - It is advertised for Year 11 and Year 13 but Year 13 had no sessions that ran over February.</p> <p>PH - There were a few Year 13 sessions running but as the number was low and only in certain subjects, we didn't advertise this with parents and just informed the targeted students in those subjects. If any other Year 13 students feel like they need further revision/intervention then can ask their class teachers if they are willing to run any.</p> <p>MH - In April we will be running a series of "Saturday Schools". These sessions will be targeted for Higher Ability students in English and Maths.</p> <p>PH - As per last year's plan, Year 11 no longer has "study leave" at home. Instead, the school re-timetables lessons to create a timetable that creates a revision session just before an exam in the same subject. This worked well last year and was very well attended by all</p>	
--	--	--

of Year 11. We also run Exam Breakfasts during the exams period to ensure the students are all in school early/on time and have a good breakfast before sitting their exams.

This is for Year 11 only as Year 13 are not re-timetabled during this period.

Parent question - Do you have any similar plans for current Year 10's this year?

PH - We recently held a "Raising Achievement" evening for Year 10 for the first time and when Year 11 leaves, that time will focus on Year 10.

MH - We have even started revision/tutoring sessions with the Year 8 students and these weekly sessions are being run by Sixth Form students as part of their enrichment.

Parents Evenings:

PH - Parents were given a brief overview of how parents evenings were run pre Covid. Staff, students and parents would all be in one big room which was overcrowded, noisy and appointments did not stick to the timeslots given. Parents would often leave without seeing key teaching staff as the evening had overrun. During Covid we had to move to virtual parents evening and these worked well, they are short, 5 minute slots, parents get seen according to appointment time and there are no queues.

We are aware of the downsides though, including if teachers don't turn up on time/IT issues, then the slot is not long enough and if the teachers talk for the whole time then it can be hard for parents to ask follow up questions. The school cannot lengthen the time of the slots as this would result in less slots/parents being seen. The school are constantly training staff in regards to parents evening content

	<p>but this still differs, teacher to teacher. Parents are always welcome to email teachers before or after parents evenings and also shouldn't feel bad about interrupting teachers during those 5 mins slots.</p> <p>PH - There should be no sudden shocks at parents evenings, i.e. sudden behaviour issues that parents are not already aware of and behaviour shouldn't be the focus as parents evenings should primarily focus on education and classroom based information. The school also encourages staff to be mainly positive during parents evening appointments.</p> <p>Parent question - Should the emphasis be on the parent to contact the teacher to rearrange the appointment if the teacher is ill/doesn't turn up?</p> <p>MH - No. If the teacher doesn't turn up for a scheduled appointment then the teacher should be contacting the parent. However, if an appointment wasn't booked in the first place, the time runs out, then the parent would need to make contact with the teacher.</p> <p>MH - Teachers work on a basis of 1265 hours (to include teaching, insets, training, events etc) and parents evenings have to fit within this, so teachers only have a set amount of hours which we fit into one parents evening.</p>	
--	---	--

<p>Update on other whole school issues</p>	<p>Rebuild Programme –</p> <p>Ofsted - Sixth Form students have slightly longer slots as the classes are smaller but if we were to offer that for Year 11, this would result in less slots and less parents getting an appointment.</p> <p>Parent question - Can the school do a mixture of in person and virtual?</p> <p>MH - No, as we only hold one parents evening per year (see above) so it would have to be one or the other.</p> <p>Parent question - Can you hold it in person but with a timer that goes off when that parents appointment is finished?</p> <p>MH - We have tried this before and appointments still over run, it was chaos. We also know other schools that have this system but parents still don't get the time they booked for.</p> <p>MH - We do think a personal connection is important though, especially for students coming up from primary school (Year 6 into Year 7) so we are exploring holding the "Meet the Tutor" evening in person for Year 7.</p> <p>Parent question - Could you not hold a meet the tutor evening for all years? Or even for classes that have new tutors during the students' time at Budmouth? Some parents have never met the tutor and been able to make any relationships.</p> <p>MH - All parents are welcome to email their child's tutor during the year and ask them for a meeting.</p>	
---	--	--

	<p>PH - We are possibly looking at changing tutors for Year 11's from next year. The proposal is that all students in Year 11 would have an English or Maths specialist teacher as their tutor for GCSE year.</p> <p>Parent question - Following our feedback at FAB, will the Year 11 mock result process change for any further mocks?</p> <p>PH - We did listen to parents and have changed the way this event will work listening to parental feedback.</p> <p>Parents thanked Pete Hudson and no further questions.</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>School Rebuild Update:</p> <p>MH - Updated parents with which parts of the school are scheduled to be rebuilt. This information will also go to parents in the next newsletter from MH.</p> <p>Canteen:</p> <p>Parent comment - Child in the Sixth Form commented that the prices in the canteen have gone up but the food quality has gone down.</p> <p>MH - Prices have gone up but this is out of the school's control, the price of food in shops and restaurants have gone up everywhere but we disagree that the quality of the food has gone down. We have a very good kitchen team and offer daily a main, veggie main, grab and go, salad bar, soup etc. We have daily deals posters up around the school and the main dinner comes with a free pudding or drink.</p>	

	<p>CR - We are aware of problems in the Sixth Form and are working hard with the canteen team to improve this offer but this can be tricky as they have limited cooking resources in the Sixth Form canteen. Sixth Form students are welcome to use the main canteen if they choose and we often have Sixth Form students using it.</p> <p>Vaping:</p> <p>Parent comment - Students are coming home from school to say that vaping still remains a big issue in the toilets, especially the single toilets in the HUB.</p> <p>MH - We are aware but have noticed a decrease recently. We have taken measures to stop this (locking group toilets at break, Senior Staff at toilet monitors at lunch etc). We have a lot of single toilets stationed around the school and it would be impossible to have staff outside them all. We do have CCTV covering these blocks though to please reiterate to students to report vaping ASAP and we can try and use the CCTV to identify the culprits.</p>	
<p>Agenda Setting</p>	<p>No suggestions for the agenda items for the next meeting in November. Parents can email CR before the next meeting with any suggestions.</p> <p>Presentation on Exclusions Policy/Process - Phil Midworth (Associate Principal).</p> <p>Next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th June 2024.</p>	