

21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the past two years we have been collating your feedback and thoughts on a variety of aspects of our provision, and amongst these is the format of parents' evenings.

The constraints on face-to-face meetings and social distancing imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we have had to turn to video conferencing to conduct consultations with both teachers and form tutors. It is fair to say that your feedback has been mixed. Some of you have emphatically supported the flexibility, efficiency and effectiveness offered by the new format, whereby others have pointed out that there was not enough time to talk to a teacher/tutor on the evening, or that they were not able to talk to all teachers.

Our statistics show that we have managed to reach more parents than ever; +25% on pre-pandemic years, with an average attendance of 91% to all the events, against an average 67% in pre-pandemic years. On average, 85% of you agreed that video conferencing allowed for meaningful conversations. While these statistics may induce us to believe that everything is going well, we want to embrace all of you and to listen to that 15% of you who are not completely satisfied and to look at what we can do to persuade the 9% of you who have not attended parent evening events over the last two years to turn up and support your child. We have, therefore, embarked on an overhaul of the current Reporting and Parents' Evening systems, for which we would very much appreciate your feedback throughout this process.

To this end, we would like to share with you our aims, the constraints and the timeline of this consultation process.

#### Our aims:

- Ensure that each and every student has the same opportunities and outstanding experience at Ely College/Bishop Laney, independently of their circumstances.
- Promote a holistic approach to the education journey whereby each and every student is treated as an individual.
- Build on and reinforce the role of the form tutor as paramount, not only for the successful progression of your child, but also as the primary interface with Ely College/Bishop Laney.
- Ensure that all students and teachers/tutors live by the Ely College and Bishop Laney values.

#### Our constraints:

- There is a limit to the amount of time we can direct teachers/tutors to conduct activities outside of the school day, including but not exclusively: continuous professional development, meetings, parent evenings and open evenings.
- The curriculum structure is such that in some subjects the same teachers may be teaching 2 or more groups, especially in Key Stage 3, making it difficult to carry out consultations for all their students/tutees on parent evenings.

**Timeline:**

- Extensive research and liaison with our schools and trust on implementing a successful parents' evening format.
  - Ongoing.
  - Main findings to be shared with Senior Leadership Team and Academic Council by the end of the Spring term.
- Parents/Carers consultation.
  - You will be invited to take part in a survey open to all parents/carers. A link will be sent on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February. The survey will close on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March.
  - The survey will consist of closed questions, but you will also be given the opportunity to share your overall comments and suggestions.
  - While criticisms will be taken into due consideration, we would like to invite all parents/carers to come forward with proposals and suggestions.
- Teaching body consultation.
  - Teachers/tutors will be invited to share their views and proposals in a whole school survey.
- Building on feedback received and research carried out, two possible formats will be proposed and presented to:
  - Teaching body and Student Council for feedback.
  - Senior Leadership for refinement.
  - Academic Council for approval.

The whole consultation process to be completed by 29<sup>th</sup> April.

- Data and IT Department to assess and implement processes involved with the 'winning format'.
- Reporting and parent evening format for academic year 2022/2023 to be published and shared with all stakeholders by 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

We very much hope you will engage in this process and look forward to receiving your constructive feedback.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Grezio  
Assistant Principal