

Action notes from Headteacher's Coffee and Chat

27th September 2016

Many thanks to all parents who attended this event. It was a very useful opportunity to meet and talk about different aspects of Pinner High School. This dialogue is really important to us.

Topic	Action
Homework	<i>Parents raised a question about Science homework. Science diagrams should be drawn in pencil.</i>
Banding	<i>Parents asked questions about how banding operates at Pinner High School. There are 2 bands in Maths and Science, based on the ability of the students. Both classes cover the same work, but may work at a pace more suited to the students in it. The bands are based on students' prior attainment, recent responses and attainment levels. They are reviewed frequently, and movement both ways is to be expected. Parents are involved in these discussions.</i>
Show My Homework (SMHW)	<p><i>Parents expressed concern that sometime homework was posted before the lesson in which it was set. Some parents stated that they found this useful, others that they found it confusing. Parents agreed that the deadlines on SMHW were helpful, and that this helped allay fears of confusion about when homework was set.</i></p> <p><i>Concerns were noted that the SMHW website, app and notifications have been unreliable. This has been passed on to SMHW engineers.</i></p> <p><i>Concern was raised that ingredient lists for Food Technology were only made available electronically on SMHW. Whilst this is preferred, where paper lists are necessary these are available.</i></p>
ParentPay and food arrangements	<p><i>Parents expressed concern that students were eating large amounts of food at break. Snacks are available at break time, but this has now been restricted to no more than 2 items per student.</i></p> <p>Some parents expressed a desire to cap the daily spend possible on ParentPay, others that they did not want this as they wanted their children to learn how to manage this better. The restriction on the number of break items was felt to be the right compromise.</p> <p>A request for ParentPay training was made. This will take place as a drop in 1.30-2.30pm on Monday 10th October. Any ParentPay questions should be directed to Claire Tarling, Finance Manager on ctarling@pinnerhighschool.org Please email her to let her know you will be attending.</p>

Changing rooms	<i>Parents asked questions about the arrangements for students to change for PE.</i> The changing rooms are shared with Avanti House. The changing rooms are both very large, and easily accommodate 2 classes. However, given concerns raised, we are now exploring alternative spaces of which we will have sole use that could be used for changing that can be supervised appropriately.
Lockers	<i>Parents asked questions about locker arrangements, specifically the size and shape of them.</i> Lockers are provided for each student in their form room. They have access to them before and after school, and at the end of break and lunch to ensure they have the correct equipment for each lesson, but do not have to carry books around all day. Discussion was had around outdoor coats, and PE kit. It was felt the lockers would hold a PE kit, but not an outdoor coat especially if it were wet. As the weather turns cooler, students will be asked to carry their coats once they are at school. Careful consideration will be given to locker strategy as the school grows.
Uniform	<i>Parents commented that the uniforms were looking very smart.</i> Concerns were raised about buttons coming off the blazers if they were pulled. This concern will be passed on to Angels, the uniform stockist, to pass on to the supplier.
Book Club and future meetings	Parents noted that they liked the book club concept, especially as choosing books their children studied at school would enable them to talk about them at home. However, a 3pm start time clashes with pick up at local primary schools, so the consensus was to move this to 2pm. The next Book Club will be at 2pm on Monday 17 th October.
Offers of support and Parental involvement	A number of parents offered support with events around school. Following the Governor nominations, more details will be available soon. An initial meeting of the PTA will follow shortly.

Thanks again to all who attended. The many positive comments about how much children are enjoying school are very much appreciated.

The next event is 9am on Thursday 20th October.

Chris Woolf

29th September 2016