

Response to Year 12 Parental Views Survey 2012/13

Where relevant, the comments and suggestions of parents are shared with the appropriate staff in school.

PARENTAL COMMENT/SUGGESTION:	RESPONSE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School doesn't respond quickly to SEN issues 	<p>Any SEN issues are responded to as swiftly as is reasonably possible. These are managed by the Pastoral Leadership team in liaison with the SENCO and subject staff and/or examination officer as required.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More notice needs to be given regarding School Visits – one week to pay £131 is unacceptable 	<p>The Sixth Form residential visit to Menai took place in October, with payment due in September. Information for the trip (but not cost) was first issued in the June. Changes have now been made: The trip has been reduced in length and cost to a 1 night stay, bringing the cost below £100. This cost will be made clear to prospective students from the June date if not earlier.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My child works because of our economic situation, I understand that this can impact on learning; however I feel that staff need to know and understand family situations before upsetting pupils by telling them to give up their job! 	<p>The Sixth Form is supportive of students engaging in part-time paid work to broaden their life experience and economic management skills, and increase independence. Students are advised of a guideline of 12 hours per week maximum, but this is only advice, not statutory. Where staff feel paid work is getting in the way of students meeting deadlines or keeping up with their study, they may make advisory comments, but this would be done in a sensitive and constructive way.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication – information about buses was late and caused confusion to the students 	<p>This was a problem at the start of the year which was unfortunately outside the power of the school to control. Information was circulated to students across the whole school via form tutors and in assemblies; parents were informed via letter, and information was posted on the school website.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim assessment provided very early in term – could another be provided towards the end of each term? 	<p>The timings of assessments are reviewed each year. The first Year 12 one is early to ‘flag up’ any issues quickly and resolve them as soon as possible. Student feedback is provided regularly from staff, and any parent may at any time contact the school for an update on their son/daughter’s progress.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems strange that target grades are based on the full spread of GCSE grades rather than more focussed on relevant subjects for the A level courses. Would it be more sensible to revise target grades for the individual rather than via the generic system? 	<p>The minimum target grades (MTG) are based on a national database which requires all GCSE grades to produce an average; this is common practice, as it provides a more balanced view overall. The data is based on the results of real students who took the exam in a particular course the previous year.</p> <p>The MTG is only the starting point for students who, in addition, all set their own target grade (STG); they can set this at a level which is a realistic aspiration for them. These grades are reviewed regularly and can be altered at any point.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We very much appreciate the detailed information we received about our daughter’s progress and the evident very good knowledge they have of the work she has been doing – thank you! 	<p>Thank you!</p>

- I never see my son complete **homework**. I feel he should receive more.

All subject staff set work for students to complete outside of their lesson time. This is essential at A Level. All students are also encouraged to read widely beyond, and on top of, the immediate homework task they have been set. Students have responsibility for managing their time and workload in their own way, using private study periods in the school day (approx. 12 hrs. per fortnight), as well as time at home. If any student is flagged up as a concern in this regard, support and intervention is provided in school by subject and/or pastoral staff, and parents are often informed too.