

26 May 2022

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Dear Parent/Carer

Principal: Mrs Samantha Broome

Parents' Forum – Tuesday 17 May 2022

At Ossett Academy and Accord Sixth Form College we believe that working closely with our parents and carers is fundamental in ensuring we provide the very best education for all of our pupils.

Each half term the academy holds a Parents' Forum. The purpose of the forum is for our parents and carers to come together to work supportively with academy leaders, discussing and exploring a variety of academy issues and initiatives. Throughout this academic year the group's ideas and constructive feedback has been an invaluable resource in helping the academy provide the very best experience for pupils and give an opportunity for parents to shape academy decisions.

Thank you to our parents and carers who attended our last meeting on Tuesday 17 May 2022. We discussed the following agenda items:

Curriculum Development

Mr Redfern explained the curriculum work that is being developed by leaders and teachers across the academy. Parents will be able to find out what their child is studying in each of their subjects through subject overviews. The subject overviews will be available on the academy website soon. In addition to the topics being studied, the overviews will provide parents with further information such as key vocabulary and websites and reading that can be used to support further learning.

Authentic Experiences

As part of our curriculum development work we are looking at how pupils can gain authentic experiences within a subject area. This will be a balance of in-house experiences and external trips. It was suggested that the academy should continue to develop relationships with local businesses to take pupils on trips, such as to manufacturing businesses.

Homework

Following discussions at previous Parents' Forums, work has been taking place to look at how homework is communicated, both to parents and to pupils. Mr Lyon explained we are looking to implement a system where a report will be generated and sent to parents via email each week to show which pieces of homework have been submitted and if any are still outstanding.

There are currently no plans for a homework timetable to be produced but there would be guidance of the frequency of homework for different subjects.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings were discussed and parents of our Year 8 pupils described how valuable it was to meet their child's teachers face-to-face at our recent Year 8 Parents' Evening. Mrs Broome explained it is now our intention to continue with face-to-face Parents' Evenings for our Year 10 and Year 7 Parents' Evenings that are scheduled to take place this academic year.

One question asked was why some Parents' Evenings were left until towards the latter end of the year. It was explained that this was for a few reasons. Firstly, so a discussion could take place on a child's learning for that academic year rather than their learning in a shorter period. Secondly, it was important to spread the evenings out across the whole academy calendar for staff workload. Pupils in Key Stage 4 have two Parents' Evenings each year and all year groups have a Supporting Success Evening, tailored to the needs of that particular year group. As a minimum there is the opportunity for parents to visit the academy twice each year for support and to discuss their child's progress.

Year 9 Options and Pathways for next year

Parents of our Year 8 pupils enquired when and how they could seek information on the options process before their child entered Year 9. Mr Redfern showed the parents how to access the Year 9 Pathways information on the website. Although this was for our pupils who are currently in Year 9 and slight changes will be made for next year, this would be a good source of information for parents and pupils who wish to get a head start and begin to think about their option choices. The link to the Year 9 Pathways information is below:

[Year 9 Pathways - Ossett Academy \(accordmat.org\)](https://www.ossett.academy/accordmat.org)

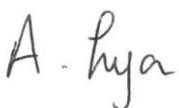
Parents' Forum

Parents who attended the evening were asked how the academy could increase the size of membership of parents to attend our Parents' Forum going forwards. Parents expressed how useful the Parents' Forums had been to date and that increasing the frequency of the event from once a term to now half termly was positive. Suggestions to increase attendance included sending out discussion notes to all parents rather than just the parents who attend the event, sending out communications for the event separately to any other letters/messages and to advertise the event more using social media, the website, MCAS and email.

Our final Parents' Forum of the year will be held on Thursday 16 June 2022 from 6:30pm until 7:30pm at the academy. If you have any questions that you would like addressing during the evening or would like an item adding to the agenda, please email alyon@ossett.accordmat.org.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to you joining us at our next Parents' Forum.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Lyon
Assistant Principal