

Chesterfield High School

Parent Carer Forum: March 3rd 2016

Theme: Communication with Parents/Carers

School Gateway

Mr Duffy outlined the School Gateway App Concept and how this would give parents/carers a direct communication with school. The application will allow you to access up to date information on timetables, attendance, behaviour, achievement and messages directly from the school. The mobile application can be downloaded from the App Store or the Google Play Store to use on your mobile phone or alternatively you can access the service directly in any web browser on a computer or tablet device at www.schoolgateway.com.

To enable your account please visit the website www.schoolgateway.com and click on 'New User'. Enter the e-mail address and mobile telephone number that you have provided to the school. You will receive a text message from the dedicated service mobile number +44(0)151 3290477 with a PIN number. Use this PIN to login to the School Gateway service.

School Website

Mr Sexton explained that since September the school had reviewed and rebuilt its website to try and improve information sharing with parents/carers, students and the wider community. We discussed how the school wants more parents to use the website regularly as a point of information or contact. Parents had an opportunity to access the website as part of the evening and were invited to give some feedback on:

What they found useful? What they did not find useful? Do the website resources meet their needs? What else would they find useful on the website?

Parents/Carers gave feedback on the meeting (see below) and were invited to send further comments in from home after having more opportunity to explore the website. If you would you like to contribute to this item please send comments/ideas to Mr Sexton ksexton@chesterfieldhigh.co.uk

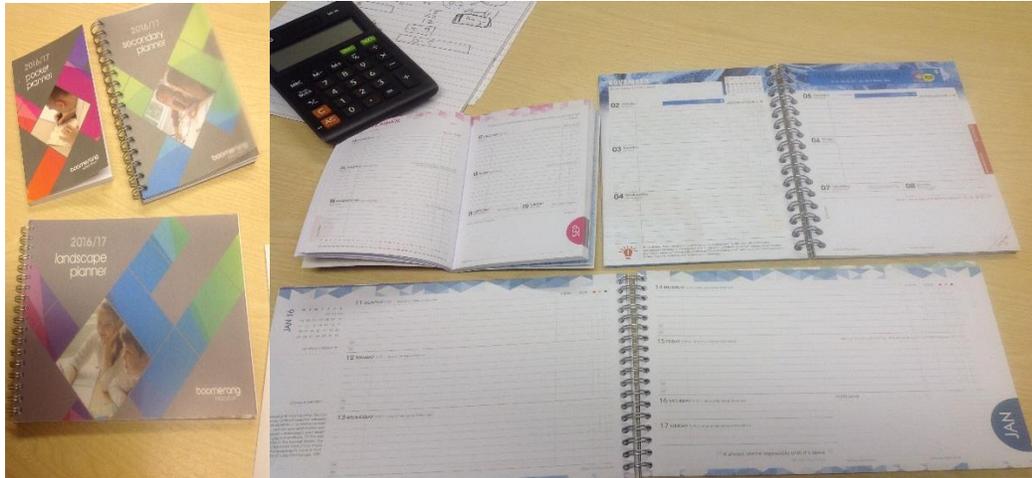
What do you find useful on the website?	What do you not find useful on the website?
School letters (please send these to the school gateway app) Term dates Dates of events far easier to find now. Key Stage newsletter Simple to use Bus routes e-safety information	Cashless catering does not show what your child has purchased or the balance - can that be sorted?
Do all the resources meet your needs?	What else would you find useful on the website
Links to more in depth information would be useful. Suggestion or comment box. Link to cashless catering would be good- want to know how much they spend all day. Information about setting and where my child is in the setting structure Links to extra-curricular provisions: times/dates Need more information on the website about examinations and revision materials More information about options	Curriculum reform information needs to be in laymen's terms. Photo of uniform on the website 6 th form matrix of subjects Under parents tab, split it into year groups Have a quick access tab for term dates. Put parents evening dates under parents' tab More publication of good news and students achievements/events More information about MOPs Careers advice Links to subject and revision sites Curriculum – broad overview of subject areas by term

School Planner

Mr Sexton invited the forum to look at new planners which the school is considering purchasing for students. Each student is provided with a planner. The planner is used to record the homework in each lesson and when it should be handed in. It is also used to record achievements and to send messages home from time to time. The planners are checked each week by form tutors to make sure they have been correctly filled in.

Parents are also encouraged to use the planners to send messages into school which will then be read by the tutors when they check them. The planner should be an important communication link between home and school. Mr Sexton shared with the forum three possible examples of student planners (see photos below) and asked for views.

The small pocketbook was felt to be too small. Some parents/carers felt the large planner may be more useful to Key Stage 4 & 5 students. Please email Mr Sexton with your thoughts or preferred choice. I have summarised the students' views underneath the photos.



Planner feedback from school council:

- Majority (except for Y11) opted for the same size planner as this year (middle size).
- Would like week A/B at the top of each week
- Name to be on the outside of the planner (like this year, not like the sample shown)
- More space for notes as some staff ask for the DO IT NOW to be completed in planners. 4-5 pages needed.
- A moveable tab for easy opening on the appropriate week.
- Possible smaller Saturday/Sunday space

Y11 only:

- Landscape planner got the majority vote from my set 2 when asked. Yr 11 liked the idea of having more space.
- Revision/Intervention table for students to complete (to include date, time, subject, teacher & room)
- Timetable to be on the back cover so it is easy to see
- No whiteboard as it is not used and looks dirty
- Map of the school would be useful
- The position of the periodic table & global map to the front! Parent's signature to the back.

Reports

Mrs. Vincent introduced this topic and how the school reporting system had developed over the last three years. The school had moved to regular data reports and away from comment bank generated statements. The school has done this to try and ensure that parents are regularly updated with the most current performance data for their child.

Parents/Carers shared their views on their report and how it could be developed/improved to address the needs as a parent/carer.

- In Key Stage 3 in particular it was felt that colours alone did provide enough detail regarding how much progress had been made since the last data report.
- If figures/percentages were being used in the end of year report – what does this actually mean? An indication whether the teacher was pleased with this performance would help.
- We discussed reviewing the letter and guidance that go out with the data report so it could be more accessible to all parents when talking to their child about their progress.
- Individual feedback regarding assessments prior to the data report should be evident in exercise books; the school will review how they monitor exercise books going home and ensuring parental involvement in the assessment cycle.