



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyghton

28th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Responses to the parent survey

Thank you to all parents who took the opportunity to feed back to the school on your views, which have been extremely helpful in helping us identify areas in which there is still room for improvement. Overall, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive with so many of you pleased with the service we offer for your children; however, we seek every opportunity to make the Beths experience even better and I have responded to your requests/questions below:

Communication:

1. Access to teaching staff.

Our response: Our school office is manned from 8am until 4:30pm each day, with an answerphone service around these times. We have been understaffed in our office team but have recently recruited an office manager and staff so service should improve. Reception staff will attempt to contact teaching staff when phone calls come into the school, however when staff are teaching, parents will be requested to send an email directly to the member of staff. Their email addresses can be accessed via the school website, as per this [link](#). When contacting staff, please state the full name of your child and their form group. Staff should respond within 48 hours; however, they are not obliged to respond at weekends. If you do not get a response on a query, then please escalate this to the Head of Department/Year.

2. Extra-curricular clubs, fixtures and letters

Our response: Our extra-curricular clubs can be found **here** and students are able to log into the SOCS site using their school login details. They are also advertised to students via their form tutor and encouraged to attend any of the clubs running. There is usually notice given for scheduled league games for sports, however cup games must take place within a set window of time, dependent on availability of both schools' other commitments, so may be more last minute. Any letters sent to parents via school comms, can also be found [here](#) on our school website.

3. Parents evening appointments.

Our response: Parents of each year group will have the opportunity to come into school to meet with the pastoral teams. We run a mixture of virtual and online parents' evenings across year groups, alternating annually in their nature, and although we understand the request for longer appointments, we are restricted by the working hours of staff and therefore longer appointments would mean less appointments available. If you want to speak more to a teacher or are unable to see them at parents evening, you are welcome to contact the school to arrange a time to have a conversation with them.

4. Homework.

Our response: Homework should be set on Show My Homework (Satchel) with a mixture of methods of marking, including self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher assessment.

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We will share a reminder of log in details via letter for Satchel, should there be any difficulties with logging in. Further guides can be found [here](#).

5. Behaviour/achievement points.

Our response: Both behaviour and achievement points can be tracked on the school gateway app. Any problems with accessing the app, please speak to your child's form tutor in the first instance. We are asking our staff to contact parents for any level 2 behaviour points going forward. Should you have any queries regarding behaviour points issued, please contact the member of staff issuing the points directly. Achievement points can also be viewed via the app. Certificates are issued at set times each term, which may explain why there is a delay in achieving the points to receiving the certificates.

Changing rooms:

6. Changing rooms

Our response: A few parents have mentioned valuables going missing from the school changing rooms during PE/Games lessons. We encourage our students to lock valuables away in their lockers, however any instance of items going missing should be reported to the teacher as soon as is reasonably possible and the matter will be investigated.

Teaching & Learning:

7. Non-permanent teaching staff.

Our response: Where we have had to source staff replacements, we have done so as swiftly as possible with the best available staff. Unfortunately, due to the notice period required from staff, despite recruiting quality permanent staff, we sometimes have to wait a number of months before they can take up their position at Beths. In this instance, along with restrictions on internal staff cover, we must outsource from recruitment agencies. Teacher recruitment is a national problem, with some subjects in such a situation that demand outweighs supply, and we have been forced to readvertise teaching positions. Non-permanent teaching staff is never a long-term solution, so it is only used when is necessary.

8. Schemes of work

Our response: Outlines for all subjects are available [here](#) on our school website, however more detailed information will follow soon.

9. Subject specific feedback

Our response: The few comments that were made specific to a subject have been passed directly to the department via the SLT line manager for further discussion and action.

I hope that the above information is useful in reassuring you that we value the views of our students and parents and will always seek to improve whenever possible. We will ask for further parental views again next term.

Yours faithfully,



R. J. Blyghton
Headteacher