



## Parent Forum 13th November 2023

22 parents present.

### 1. Home learning

Mrs Nuttall, AHT, made a presentation.

You said...	We did...
Home Learning is being set much more consistently this year.	Good. It has been a big focus for us since September, because we recognise the impact it has on student achievement.
Students tell parents they cannot always access the relevant learning platform	From time this Wednesday (15th) will be dedicated to ensuring every student can log in. Any absentees can go to the IT technicians Thursday and Friday break / lunch.
One parent reports she has twins, and there is variance in the amount that has been set between classes in the same year.	JNL will follow up with Geography, the department involved. The setting of Home Learning is being centrally monitored this term.
Staff set Home Learning, but don't update whether it's been submitted.	Staff have been told to only enter in Yes/ No once, on the day assignments are due, to manage staff workload.
Why do some messages go to both parents, but some just to one?	Our norm is that we message the primary contact. Sometimes teachers choose to message all contacts.
Parents said that students are not always clear what the expectations are in terms of revision	Teachers have been asked to ensure students know what they have to hand in to demonstrate revision has taken place
Students aren't recording Home Learning in planners so not learning to manage it independently, relying on parents checking synergy instead.	We recognise this issue and we are trying to encourage use of planners in every lesson. Teachers have been asked to allow time in the lesson for noting details and due dates.
Merits for good home learning are not being awarded enough.	We agree. The awarding of these merits is being monitored closely.



## 2. Reading

Ms Paradine, AHT and school SENDCO, made a presentation.

Parents raised:

You said...	We did...
Students find it hard to focus on one thing, and want to use their phone, Xbox and a movie together. Books require full concentration so the habit of reading feels alien to some students.	We agree. Our reading focus in Spring Term will address this, complementing our existing reading support programme.
It's hard to find interesting reading material - especially for boys. Some students by year 11 turn off reading because of the challenge of GCSE texts. Can school recommend more. Can school recommend reading material, including fiction, non-fiction, magazines and blogs?	We have added a 'Reading' page to our website <a href="https://www.westhoughton-high.org/reading/">https://www.westhoughton-high.org/reading/</a> There are some really good recommended reads on the page, this will be added to over time.
There's too big a change between primary and secondary school - from signing for reading 5x a week to nothing.	Looking into adding a signing section with the student planner for next academic year for reading.
Students don't seem to get access regularly to the library and have an expectation of borrowing books.	The library is open daily at break and lunch, as well as before and after school on Mon, Wed and Fri.
Can school put in an expectation of reading a book regularly? And/or encourage reading through competitions?	A competition ran in December '12 Days of Reading' to encourage reading. More will run throughout the year.
Parents today acknowledge they are mostly proactive parents and skilled at teaching reading to their children. They expect some other parents may need support with continuing to teach their KS3 students to read.	This is something we will think about for the best support options we can offer, we will always offer support where we can.
Maybe there could be a newsletter devoted to reading, making clear what books are being read in form time. Also giving tips for teaching good reading habits.	We will try and incorporate this into our next newsletter, and add any extra information on our new dedicated Reading page on the school website.



### **3. Mental health**

Mrs Torrance, AHT made a presentation (attached) and also brought some mental health leaflets/ resources.

She aims to set up a mental health action group involving parents and community members, to support students' mental health. Please speak with JT on the way out if you are interested in a steering group of that type. **Interested parents who did not attend can email [whsoffice@westhoughton-high.org](mailto:whsoffice@westhoughton-high.org) marking their email for the attention of Mrs Torrance.**

<b>You said...</b>	<b>We did...</b>
When your children are well adjusted and coping well, some feel there is an overload of mental health and well-being input.	We believe students today need to know how to maintain good mental health. There has been one assembly and one form-time session on mental health this term.

### **4. Other Feedback from Parents**

was invited but no further issues were raised on this occasion.

Please email [whsoffice@westhoughton-high.org](mailto:whsoffice@westhoughton-high.org) to suggest items for future agendas.