

St Olave's PA Form Reps Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 27th April 2016 @ 7:30pm

Location: Main School Library

Attendees: Mr Evans (Deputy Head), Charlotte Rutter, Esmat Pourjam, Rinku Chibber, Seema Singh, James Ward, Jennifer Franks, Madhu Pandey, Rachael Peek, Isabel Corniciuc, Siobhan Gee, Sarah Eldridge, Francesca Iudicello, Nicky Davies, Ching Yu, Danni Palmer, Sally Begley, Harbi Kaur, Julie Costard

Apologies: Lin Limbrey, Dinta Madlani, Sue Watts, Julie Vouillemin, Narinder Gill, Paula McCabe, Catherine Fleet, Tiffany Barradell, Shubhra Tripathi

Questions for the school

1. Boys are reporting to their parents that they cannot go to lunch time clubs as the queue for hot lunch is very long. Can anything be done?

Mr Evans said there is usually no lunch queue by 1 pm and, as many of the clubs do not start until after this time, students should be able to make it to the various activities. A timetable can be found on the school website: <http://www.saintolaves.net/clubsoverview>. If there is a problem with a specific club, parents are welcome to contact Mr Evans to see if anything can be done to help.

2. Do the boys have to stay outside at break-times even if it is very cold? Is there any option to stay inside?

If it is very cold or wet, a 'wet break' will be called and students can stay in their form rooms. At other times, the libraries are always available and many teachers who are in their classrooms would be happy for students to be present if they are doing a quiet activity.

3. Will there be any feedback from the student questionnaire results?

This was the first online student survey conducted by the school and the response was very pleasing (almost two-thirds of the cohort). The students have already been briefed on the findings and a report has been shared with the staff and governors. The letter to students can be found [here](#).

4. Of the 12 students who failed to progress to Year 13 in 2015-16, how many of them have had to re-sit Year 12? Also, has anyone who got less than 3 Bs at AS level been allowed to continue on to year 13?

Mr Evans explained that some students moved in to Year 13 and some re-took Year 12. Every case is looked at individually.

5. What exams are there for next year in Year 10 and when will they take place. Are they all mocks or do any count towards GCSEs?

Mr Evans confirmed the only external exam for Year 10 is (short course) GCSE Religious Studies. End of year exams take place in Activity Week 1 but these are internal exams only.

6. There were insufficient slots to see the science teacher at the Year 8 Parents' Evening and people have been unable to arrange any feedback subsequently. Can this be improved?

Some teachers teach multiple classes in a year and as such they are not able to fit everyone in to the Parents' Evening. If your child does not get a slot you can email the teacher directly to ask for feedback. If you do not get a response, please escalate to Mr Evans.

7. Revision for Year 9 seems to well guided for some subjects but not for others. Are there any top tips that could be provided to the boys about how to revise?

For subject specific revision techniques Mr Evans encourages students to ask their teachers. He did provide some general tips for revision, however.

- **Get organised.** Find a quiet space to study, collect all necessary materials and plan your time carefully. A timetable is often very helpful in this regard. Importantly, students need to start early and set themselves clear goals for their revision: deciding to learn how to solve quadratic equations, say, will be far more successful than revising 'maths' in general.
- **Practice.** Reading through notes is never as effective as practising a technique or trying to summarise the material yourself.
- **Collaborate.** Working with a revision partner can be very useful in helping with motivation and in boosting your learning. Taking turns to explain topics or testing each other's knowledge is a powerful way to develop understanding.
- **Take regular breaks.** Long periods of revision are ineffective. Break up your revision into shorter periods interspersed with breaks and time for meals. Ensure that you include periods of relaxation in your timetable; especially towards the end of the day.
- **Variety.** Don't spend too long on one subject or one topic. Separate revision into smaller units and mix them up to help maintain your focus.
- **Know thy self...** Take time to understand how you learn best – is it with music in the background or in absolute silence? Do you need to say the words out loud or does highlighting key passages in the text work best? There is no model approach to revision – everyone's different – but discovering what works best for you is the key to success.

8. Some parents feel there is not enough homework for Year 9, some days there is none, and could revision be set if there is no homework required? It is better received if the school recommends revision rather than parents.

There is a timetable for homework that allows one hour a fortnight for each subject in KS3 and up to an hour and a half in KS4. This is an appropriate level that still allows time for students to undertake extra-curricular activities. Occasionally there will be days on which no homework is set but in general this timetable should be adhered to. If there are any specific examples where not enough homework is given on a regular basis, Mr Evans would be happy to investigate.

Other issues

At the Summer Fun Day we hope that individual classes can take responsibility for manning some stalls. I will send a list of available stalls to the form reps along with details of the times to be covered and look forward to hearing from volunteer organisers.

Also for the Summer Fun Day we produce a brochure that contains advertising for local businesses. It is a great opportunity to reach new customers as we distribute approximately 1,000 brochures in the lead up to and at the event. Adverts cost from £25 to £100 for a full page or alternatively can be paid for by providing raffle prizes. I will send an email to form reps that can be forwarded to parents who may have a small business they want to advertise.

AOB

1. There are no Modern Foreign Language Exams on the school calendar.
There is a note at the bottom explaining that there are too many different MFL exams to put on the calendar. Students will be given the timings by staff for each exam they are taking.
2. Can you clarify the streaming criteria for Year 9?
There is no setting in the school apart from Maths which begins to set students from Year 9 onwards. Regardless of the setting all students at St Olaves are very mathematically able and should be aiming for the highest grade.
3. Can teachers refuse to allow a student to take a specific GCSE option?
No.
4. Mr Evans informed the form representatives that he will be leaving the school at the end of the year and Mr Budds would take his place at the meetings. The Form representatives thanked Mr Evans for his hard work and patience over the past few years. We will be sad to see him go but look forward to working with Mr Budds.

Date of next meeting tbc but sometime in October after the UCAS deadline of 15th October.