



Heckmondwike Grammar School
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Headteacher: Mr N Bulley

NDB/LMS

20 October 2017

Parents and Carers

Parent Consultation Events – November 2017

As has been mentioned in several previous communications with you over the last year, the education system has been going through a period of significant change. We as a school are currently managing this extremely effectively and going from strength to strength, with the initial estimate of our Progress 8 score from the government indicating that our students last year achieved nearly half a grade better per student than the national average- putting us amongst the top schools in the country not just for achievement (as you might expect), but *also* for progress.

This has led to our considering that this is the best time to decide where our future lies as a school in terms of three main areas:

- Our vision for the school and for our students
- Our creation of a curriculum that best prepares our young people to progress through education and life
- Our use of technology to enhance the opportunities they have access to

As a result, we would like to invite you to an evening dedicated to explaining and consulting with you on these significant questions. Please note that there is no need to bring students with you – **it is for parents only** - as we will be consulting with students separately regarding the same issues. However, there will be some form of context-setting as regards our current situation, some ideas suggested as to possibilities for the future, and a chance to contribute to the formulation of that via discussion and feedback. We will have to limit the numbers for each evening to 200 in order to accommodate the format of the evening and enable us to discuss a range of issues.

The argument could well be 'if it ain't broke, why fix it'- and this is a fair point. However, it is far better for us to innovate at our peak than rely on maintaining the status quo. There is a sense that we need clarity of direction to envision where we wish to be in five years' time; that our curriculum is challenging - as it should be - but changes in the system indicate a need to at least research our choices in each key stage; and that our students are carrying around powerful computers in their pockets that we currently require them to leave in their lockers during the school day - is this the best use of the resources we have available?

As a result, we would be grateful if you could please sign up to attend the evening allocated to your child's year group (if you have more than one child at HGS, please feel free to select whichever date suits you best) in order to participate in creating the future of our school. My apologies that this will need to be on a first-come, first-served basis. Please let us know by **Friday 3 November** if you would like to attend by returning the slip overleaf to the main reception.

I must include a caveat in this letter: there is no guarantee that your preferences will become reality; we are consulting you because we value your views. However, there are significant constraints on us including, for example, our buildings, our staffing and our finances. What we can guarantee is that we will, balancing all of these elements, maintain a focus on our students as being at the centre of all we do. Your contribution to this discussion will be helpful and useful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N D Bulley', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

N D Bulley
Headteacher

Enc

REPLY SLIP

Parent Consultation events - November 2017

I would like to attend the evening as detailed below.

	Date	Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text" value="Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)"/>	<input type="text" value="9<sup>th</sup> November"/>	<input type="text" value="6pm"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text" value="Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)"/>	<input type="text" value="23<sup>rd</sup> November"/>	<input type="text" value="6pm"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text" value="Sixth form"/>	<input type="text" value="30<sup>th</sup> November"/>	<input type="text" value="6pm"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name (print): _____ (Parent / carer)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name(s) of Child/ren:

NAME: _____ Form: _____

NAME: _____ Form: _____

NAME: _____ Form: _____