

# Feedback from Positive Parents Forum (25<sup>th</sup> June 2015)

## TOPIC: CANTEEN & LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

### What we liked:

- Having this forum
- Food is good
- That the canteen is so popular
- That there are lunchtime clubs
- The electronic lunch card
- The idea of staggering the timetable which helps students to find enough room in the canteen
- The activities offered by the clubs are very interesting

### It would be even better if...:

	Response from School Management Team
Increase space/capacity	Whilst all suggestions here would reduce pressure on the canteen, they would also divert significant money away from teaching and learning in the classrooms, which is where we think it should be spent.
The canteen was bigger	
An outside canopy to provide shelter	
Covered outside seating area	
Consider inviting a suitable outside organisation to build a restaurant on-site	Building a restaurant on-site could lead to disruption and possibly increased prices. The School Council is looking at developing ideas for designated eating areas which might extend canteen/conservatory space whilst also controlling litter. A workable proposal from them could lead to local companies being approached for their support.
A local company to create and sponsor to build/extend the canteen space	
The Hall could be used to give more eating space	Periodically, the Hall is used either as a classroom for PE/Drama or for examinations. This means at times the Hall needs to be 'quarantined', with no one allowed admission except for exams officer and invigilators. We also need to make sure the area is free from litter and safe to use as a classroom (which can become an issue if the pupils have wet shoes).
Provide a special area for people with packed lunches – may relieve pressure on the canteen	In the past, pupils were allowed to eat outside until littering became a problem on the school fields and with our neighbours. Pupils are allowed to eat their packed lunches in the canteen and conservatory where they are supervised by staff. Designating another area outside the canteen for packed lunches may also require the employment of another lunchtime supervisors. This would have cost implications.
A designated area or corridor outside of canteen for packed lunches	
Outside picnic benches, immediately outside the canteen window.	
We put tables outside the canteen, with bins	
Put bins by entrance of school	
Can we use 6 <sup>th</sup> Form prefects to supervise packed lunch kids in designated area	6 <sup>th</sup> Form prefects already support staff during breaktime in the canteen and conservatory.
Pupils were allowed to eat in any lunchtime club/group they visited	This is something which pupils have recently asked for and will be considered by SMT.
Allow pupils to eat outside. Litter survey teams of	Our litter survey teams have so far conducted

pupils to encourage them to be more responsible.	several litter picks of the site and also led school assemblies on raising awareness of the impact of litter.
Litter-picking rota's, each class has a week of duty	We've already introduced a weekly rota in Year 7, supported by the School Council. We will look at developing this with other year group's further next year.
Review having circular tables in the canteen	This would increase the capacity of the hall, but it would also require significant capital expenditure, diverting money away from the classrooms.
'Harry Potter' style benches and tables instead of round tables, as more effective use of space	
If the canteen would be organised in lines [of tables]	
Kids would eat! All our kids come home with uneaten lunch most days	Pupils do have opportunities to eat their food in either the conservatory or canteen at either breaktime or lunchtime where they are also supervised by staff. However, our staff can't necessarily check whether pupils have eaten their lunch or not!
Perhaps stagger serving of the years within the lunchtime?	There already is a staggered serving of lunches in place during lunchtime, though this may need to be re-emphasised to pupils.
Water fountains – no fizzy drink/sweet machines.	We do have a water fountain for pupils in PE. Our vending machine contract is coming to an end and will not be renewed – there won't be any fizzy drinks or sweets available in schools.

## TOPIC: EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS/ACTIVITIES

### What we liked:

- Good range of clubs;
- Love the library;
- Good that there are so many activities.
- The fact that some clubs start at 12.40 to allow lunch eating first (or allow them to eat in the clubs)
- The range of clubs
- Activities offered by the clubs are very interesting
- Trips out, good variation in activities;
- Something for everyone, good range
- Playing fields
- Things like F1 in Schools

### It would be even better if...:

Response from School Management Team	
A daily afterschool homework club where a teacher was present to assist with getting homework done.	We have had a coding club and a debating society in the past, our Homework Club is still active at lunchtimes. However, all clubs are run voluntarily by teachers. If we sought to insist on clubs being run, we would have to pay staff on an additional contract. It is very much up to the teacher what clubs they are able to offer and when they will be held. When we ran a regularly homework club in
There was a 'code club' for computer programming and robotics.	
A debating society for all ages	

	the past, it folded because of very low attendance.
Our son has often been to the 'computer club' and 'maths club' but found it closed or only open for a short time.	Sometimes circumstances can change during the course of the day which means a club might be cancelled at short notice unavoidably. We will make teachers aware of concerns regarding cancellations, particularly of afterschool activities.
After school clubs need to be reliable – to allow parents time to sort out pick up arrangements	
Communication about cancellation of after school activities was given with more notice – it has a detrimental effect on travelling home. Tweeting, even last minute cancellations, would be helpful.	
More information about the clubs so that it might encourage the students to try them.	This is something we can look to add to next year's information about clubs on the website, although we may not be able to feature it on school posters.
There was a 'code club' for computer programming and robotics.	These clubs have been offered in the past by teachers and pupils. As mentioned earlier, as the clubs are organised voluntarily, it is very much up to the teacher what clubs they are able to offer.
A debating society for all ages	
It was clearer which clubs apply to which year groups	We've tried to already include this in the information which we share. However, it is something which we can develop next year.
It was better advertised to children and available to wider age groups.	We already advertise the clubs on our <a href="#">website</a> , through several wall posters displayed throughout the school and reminding pupils at school assembly. Subject teachers also remind pupils about subject-specific clubs e.g. maths club.
Longer lunchtimes to fit in time for activities e.g. change into PE Kit	We've recently conducted a consultation on lunchtime. One of the reasons why we decided to retain a single lunchtime for everybody was because it was felt that it would impact upon extra-curricular clubs.
Year 7 list of trips for parents	School trips are usually organised during the school year. Some of these can be specific for individual classes, whereas other may be open to the entire year group and may well be annual events. Where possible, we'll try to make you aware of these events as soon as possible.
Pupils are encouraged to go to clubs if they show interest e.g. reading;	Largely, this is already done where the club is subject-specific e.g. History of Art etc.
Something interactive on the website (images, stories) that the pupils can access	We already have various quizzes and activities which are linked to school work.
'Freshers Fair' for the clubs during their visit time	A good idea. This is something which we will look at developing next year.
Link clubs to Welsh Bacc, older pupils running clubs for young pupils.	An interesting idea which may develop as our first Welsh Bacc cohort progresses. However, staff would still need to supervise pupils if the club is organised indoors in a classroom.
Performance, shows, school productions and orchestra – more activity.	There are a variety of musical and/or artistic for clubs available for pupils which are also advertised in the music department, on our posters and <a href="#">here</a> .

## TOPICS TO CONSIDER AT NEXT MEETING:

1. Toilets
2. Parental involvement/engagement

## FURHER FEEDBACK:

<b>Response from School Management Team</b>	
COMMUNICATION - Letters to parents are disrupted if the registration teacher is on duty the morning they should be issued. Could teachers with a registration class be excluded from morning supervision?	Any letters which should be issued during a given morning is usually left in a registration file for the teacher to collect and disseminate. However, if a file hasn't been left with the admin staff it can sometimes mean there could be a delay in issuing the letters. We do not have enough staff to free duty staff from registration.
COMMUNICATION – How to use twitter	If you've got a twitter account, simply click on the twitter icon in the top right hand corner of our <a href="#">website</a> and then 'follow' us. Alternatively, you will need to set up a twitter account on <a href="http://www.twitter.com">www.twitter.com</a> . Once you've done this, either 'search' for us ( <a href="#">@Friars School</a> ) or click the twitter icon in the top right hand corner of our webpage.
COMMUNICATION - twitter is just not suitable for everyone. Can there be email messages that can be signed up to on the website so that when a letter is issued an email with the relevant letter attached can be sent out to everyone who has signed up?	A variety of letters are sent out to different pupils. Some of these are collated and produced centrally. Whilst we do collate email addresses, these aren't always updated when there is a change and in some cases we've found the pupil's own email address is used. Our suggestion would be for you to regularly review the website as letters and newsletters are often uploaded to the news section here.
COMMUNICATION - Academic parents evening late in Year 7 June/July in addition to the Parents Evening in October Y7	The Year 7 Parents Evening is held in October so that parents can quickly follow-up on their child's progress after transfer. There are 3 reports to parents with which we issue at the end of each term to feedback on progress. One of these is a full written report which we issue in July. At each report stage, we ask for a parental response and where there are questions/concerns, these are followed up directly by the Year Team Leader.