

CWA/KRE

25 November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 Students

**Re: Proposed New Parents' Consultation Evening Format**

For a number of years now, due to the sheer size of our individual year groups, a fairly significant number of you have not been able to secure appointments with your child's teachers at their annual Parents' Consultation Evening. I know, and understandably so, that this has been an ongoing frustration for many of you. Therefore, with a potentially viable alternative in mind, on Thursday 14 November 2019, we trialled a different format with our new Year 7 cohort titled 'Meet the Teacher Evening'. To cut to the chase, the evening proved to be a huge success with a massive 82% turnout and not one single negative comment about this new format has been received to date; in fact, the positive comments from parents, carers, students and staff members proved to be somewhat overwhelming!

After taking all of this into account, as well as discussing this further at last Tuesday's Senior Leadership Team meeting, the proposed Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening on **Thursday 12 December 2019** will now adopt this new format which will be as follows:

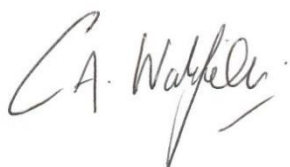
- The start time will be 6.00 pm rather than the usual 4.30 pm as we have also listened to the many points made over time about the earlier start not being conducive to many of our parents' and carers' working days.
- There will be no need to book any appointments with this new format as even though parents and carers were getting up at the 6.00 am opening of the booking system, again, due to the size of the year groups at Plume Academy, there were simply not enough appointment slots to come even close to what the parental/carers demand was.
- Parents, carers and students simply need to turn up from 6.00 pm onwards on Thursday 12 December and visit their respective classrooms/teaching areas and meet the teachers who deliver their respective subjects. It will of course remain a very busy evening but there will, as the Year 7 evening proved, be time to engage in dialogue with your child's teaching staff at some point during the evening.
- Your child's books/work will also be available for you to see and look through and you will be able to do this in a timely manner rather than in a quick snapshot five-minute consultation period which often seems rushed, again, as many of you have alluded to over a significant period of time now.
- The academy's canteen will also be laying on some dinner in the guise of a chicken korma, a vegetable korma, a chicken Balti and a vegetable Balti all served with rice and accompaniments for those parents and carers who have to rush from work and who will not have had time to eat. Therefore, if this proves to be the case, please, come along, sample some of our delicious food and sit down as a family for a few minutes to enjoy it whilst perhaps having a chat at the same time. Teas and coffees will also be available for our guests too.

- The evening will run over a two-hour period and end at 8.00 pm.

Further to my letters last Spring and in September, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that should you ever feel the need to do so, you can always contact the respective member of staff with whom you wish to ask a question or raise a concern. You need not wait for an annual parental/carer event such as this one. If it is subject related, please contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance and if it is a non-subject and pastoral related matter, please contact your child's Assistant Head of Year in the first instance. This can be by telephone, letter or email, with the latter being our preferred method of communication. If you choose to do so, it is via the following format: *the teacher's first initial > a dot > their surname > @plume.essex.sch.uk*. For example, [C.Wakefield@plume.essex.sch.uk](mailto:C.Wakefield@plume.essex.sch.uk). My colleagues will aim to respond to you as quickly as possible but do bear in mind that a significant number now work on a part-time basis. Therefore, on some occasions, there may be a slight delay in terms of an ensuing response.

Thank you in advance of your anticipated support in relation to this particular matter and as per the recent 'Year 7 Meet the Teacher' event, we will fully review the evening after it has occurred to determine as to whether this will be a permanent change or whether we will revert back to the current system.

Yours sincerely



Mr C A Wakefield  
Principal