

Year 6 into Year 7 Transition Focus Group

- **The first focus group is for the parents of students in Year 7 only.** We are currently planning our next steps in terms of transition for the 265 students that will be joining us in September 2024 and want to learn from your recent experiences. Our parental survey from December 2023 highlighted a number of practical things that parents felt would have been helpful to know in advance. This meeting will be with key transition staff, a school governor and a member of the school's leadership group and we will offer a brief presentation before sharing ideas and discussing next steps.
- This focus group is open to all parents and carers who successfully sign up for the 30 available spaces. **The meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th March 2024 between 5.30 and 6.30 p.m.**



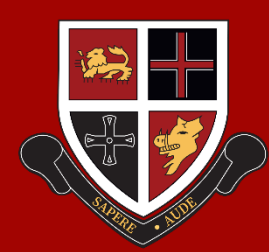
Homework Focus Group

- The second focus group is linked to homework. Parental surveys always highlight strong feelings about homework, with some parents feeling that there is too much and others suggesting that much more is needed. We have always shared with parents and students that the purpose of homework is to get ready for lessons, to complete work, consolidate knowledge and to go further in terms of depth. We are also aware that the most common reason for behaviour points in school relates to incomplete homework and that AI affects some aspects of homework and coursework. Based upon those points, it would be helpful to discuss the approach that the school should take. Other aspects of technology have also changed how we might approach homework and we are keen to discuss this with parents and carers. We will offer a brief presentation before sharing ideas and discussing next steps.
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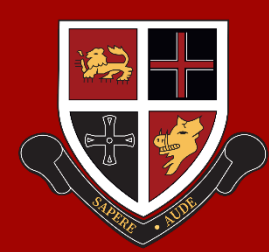
Assessment & Reporting Focus Group

- We have made some significant changes to reporting for examination years in 2023-24 and are keen to build upon this. We are also considering how to introduce more consistent forms of assessment across the school year and how to make sure that students and their parents are well prepared. We want to get a sense of the information that is most helpful for parents whilst carefully considering any impact that change may have on the workload of students, teachers and school support staff. We are also thinking about the different information, beyond results, which might help parents to understand how their child is doing at school, with an understanding of strengths and weaknesses. As referenced above, technology affords more opportunities to do this, but we want to make sure that we identify the most appropriate things that allow students to be successful. We will offer a brief presentation before sharing ideas and discussing next steps.
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Personal Development Focus Group

- All schools have a number of statutory responsibilities linked to the personal development of students, such as relationship and sex education, and careers guidance and opportunities. Personal development is an educational label used in schools to describe all of the things that sit outside of the formal curriculum delivered via subject areas. We feel that the school offers wide range of opportunities in the classroom and also via extra and super curricular provision. We are keen to get your thoughts on how we plan sessions, use student voice in school and how we might best interlink opportunities within both dedicated time in the curriculum and in subject lessons where appropriate. We want to make sure that all of our students are ready to play an active part in British society as adults and want to know what else parents feel would allow us to continue doing so in the most effective ways. We will offer a brief presentation before sharing ideas and discussing next steps.
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Fund Raising, Sponsorship & Super Curricular Focus Group

- We are fortunate to have such a committed Governing Body and we want to expand the number of people willing to serve as Parent Governors in the coming years, whilst also encouraging parents and carers to support the school in any way that they can. With that in mind, we are keen to work with any parents who feel that they could deliver an extra or super curricular activity for our students. That can be linked to your experience or a particular job, it could be to help with clubs and activities in school. In addition, we have lots of great ideas that would benefit all of our students but, due to the very difficult financial situation that all schools are currently experiencing, don't have the available money to fund them. For example, a sponsored bus on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays would allow far more students to stay after school and to access clubs. Similarly, support for transport to sporting events would make a significant difference, as would any additional funding to widen participation and to allow the widest range of students possible to gain access to new experiences. Our House System is very active, and we are also keen to speak with parents who work with local charities, to see how our students might volunteer more and serve their communities positively. We will offer a brief presentation before sharing ideas and discussing next steps.
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