



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

Parents' Evening Survey - Results

[Summary of Survey Results - click here to open](#)

Dear Parents

I was very grateful for the number of parents who took the time to complete the survey I recently sent about your opinions on the School's Parents' Evenings. Having such feedback is very useful to the School when making decisions about how we provide information to you about your child's progress.

The Future of Parents' Evenings

We received 530 responses from parents to the survey and the full summary of results can be viewed in the document attached. What is clear from the results is that the majority of parents value the convenience of virtual Parents' Evenings; however, as ever with surveys, there is a diverse range of views. The School leadership have considered these responses carefully and, in light of the overwhelmingly positive response regarding the School's virtual offer, we will continue to plan virtual Parents' Evenings next academic year in all year groups.

However, reading the comments that were made in the survey, there is also an evident sentiment from many parents that virtual events can diminish a sense of connection to the school. For this reason, we will revert to in-person Parents' Information Evenings next year (that normally take place at the beginning of the academic year); we will also seek to allow a face-to-face option for one evening out of the two for year groups where two consultation events are planned.

Parents Evenings versus Written Reports

Replies concerning the relative merits of Parents' Consultation Evenings and written reports were less clear-cut. Therefore we have no mandate to make any changes to our current arrangements: Years 7-10 will continue to receive a full written report along with one Parents' Consultation Evening while parents of students in Years 11-13 will continue to be invited to two such evenings.

Appointment Length

In the comments received by parents, we did note a frequently expressed opinion that virtual appointments should be longer than five minutes in length. The five-minute slot length was carried forward from the face-to-face events and, in most cases, we believe this length of appointment provides the best balance between competing pressures. Most notably, an increase in appointment length would make it less likely that all parents would be able to secure an appointment with a teacher. However, for higher years, where classes are smaller, teachers will have the option to plan for longer appointments (usually ten minutes) where this is appropriate to the subject and would still allow for enough slots for all parents to potentially secure an appointment.

Guaranteed Appointments

Another view expressed by some respondents was that parents should be able to guarantee an appointment with every subject teacher. While this would be desirable in an ideal world, the constraints of teacher availability make this unfeasible. In some departments we have only one or two teachers which can mean an individual teaching more than 120 pupils in a year group – even at five minutes per slot, this would equate to 10 hours of appointments. It is worth noting that some teachers are already spending over four hours participating in an individual Parents' Evening. We are constrained by guidance on how much time we can reasonably ask a teacher to spend on such discussions per year group in order to safeguard staff well-being.

Improvements We Have Made

The issues outlined in the previous paragraph are most acute in Years 7 to 9. In order to mitigate against these concerns, we have extended these evenings from three to four hours. For these evenings, we also initially restrict the number of appointments that parents can make to six so that the most important subjects for a parent are prioritised. It is important that parents only tick which subjects they require most urgently at this stage if using the automatic scheduling facility. Evenings are always scheduled to "go live" mid-evening when most people are free of work commitments.

I hope that you have found this feedback useful and we were also very pleased to read all of the comments submitted in the survey, the vast majority of which were both considered, positive and helpful.

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