

### **Coffee Morning-Year 7 (18<sup>th</sup> February 2019)**

Principal Stephen Loggie gave a presentation on the Borrett Road redevelopment project timeline. Early indications are that the site could be completed several months ahead of schedule. Regular updates to be shared via the school website. Mr. Loggie also welcomed regular opportunities to better communicate with parents. The parent/school/student communications “triangle” has replaced the traditional single line school-student-parent communications model.

Vice Principal, Head of Junior Phase Jenny Hodson and Senior Head of Wilberforce Kate Sommerville shared tips with parents on how set up systems and structures to help manage students’ time and encourage students to stick with activities to develop their determination and resilience. This was tied in with discussions on homework policy, home learning & learning beyond the classroom.

Homework Policy was being currently being reviewed with selected students who will provide the final input in the review process. Homework should not be due the next day-if so, parents were encouraged to contact the school. Parents should get involved in homework when their child asks for help, and inquire indirectly when their child doesn’t ask.

Parents gave feedback, asked questions and received answers on variety of topics including April’s parent consultation, assessments, Traffic Light system and Evidencer.

### **Coffee Morning-Year 9 & 10 (27<sup>th</sup> February 2019)**

Vice Principal, Head of Middle Phase Matt Rappel hosted the event. Lead English Teacher Teri Eaves started the session with explanation on English mock exam. Principal Stephen Loggie updated parents about school’s hiring, enrolments and Borrett Road project schedule.

ICT Teacher Kevin Lester explained the Evidencer. The combining of several systems into the common platform of Evidencer has experienced teething problems but they are being addressed. Senior Head of Nansen Danny Nason and Senior Head of Da Vinci Mary Lacey-Vittachi updated parents on Pastoral Care and Wellbeing. They emphasized the importance of 8-9 hours of sleep, developing routines and negotiating usage time of smart devices. Workshop with parents are planned to address these concerns.

Matt Rappel concluded the session by explaining the new IGCSE grading system, the significance of Yellis for Year 10 students, course content, and Elements.

### **Coffee Morning- Year 13 (4th March 2019)**

Vice Principal for Senior Phase Justine Oliver and Higher Education Guidance Counsellor Awing Lui discussed a wide variety of topics. IB results will be received by the school on 5<sup>th</sup> July and students informed on 6<sup>th</sup> July. The same night students who don’t meet their UK university offers will be called and asked to come in on Sunday to discuss alternate plans. It will be hectic as there is a UK Education Fair the next day and transcripts should be sent by Tuesday to the alternate choices. Students were aware of the 4 Step Strategy if they did not meet their offers.

On the other hand, US universities should advise their offers by 1<sup>st</sup> April. It was stressed that only one unconditional offer should be accepted – accepting multiple unconditional offers unfairly withheld places for other students and it didn’t reflect well on the student and the school. Also, unconditional

offers didn't mean students should relax – the university still has expectations. For Canada colleges, it was important to maintain predicted grades and for Hong Kong universities, students must wait until late August for offers.

Prior to departing for university, parents were reminded to 1) To work out support resources needed with the university e.g. extra learning support facilities, 2) Attend international student orientations to network, learn tips etc., 3) Increase awareness of safety & security, and 4) Create specific communication plans with your child.

Parents attention was drawn to 1) Student school email addresses terminating on 1<sup>st</sup> July and to ensure emails be directed to student personal email addresses 2) Documents issued by the school will be transcripts, graduation certificate & IB results.

Senior Head of Einstein Paul Harries explained the Year 13 Graduation event at the end of May before the session concluded with Justine Oliver emphasizing the importance of sleep, letting students wind down and enjoy their last day of school. This was a rite of passage in a young person's academic life, but they have been told to do so responsibly.

#### **Coffee Morning-Year 8 (10<sup>th</sup> May 2019)**

Senior Head of Fleming Angela Worthington and Vice Principal, Head of Junior Phase Jenny Hodson spoke to Year 8 parents on the development of skills that can help the children to transition to Year 9. Highlights were:

- Students were asked to dress in an admired profession - this should stimulate thinking about possible career pathways.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, students will visit Tai Wai, meet their new form tutor and familiarize themselves with their new campus.
- Reflection on their goals set at the start of Year 8.
- Setting targets for Year 9 including non-academic goals like using CAS for student leadership roles etc.,

Parents were also explained the purpose of the Solo Exhibition on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Students were expected to choose a topic and communicate their learning which included understanding about their ideas, why they chose the topic, their learning process, demonstrating critical thinking skills and the impact of their learning e.g. how it could help others. Students were expected to present to their peers and exhibition visitors.

Jenny Hodson emphasized to parents the power of positivity, creating space & time for their children to come to talk, encouraging time management skills and responsible device management skills. She concluded by requesting parents to share personal experiences with their children e.g. what helps the parent concentrate – this would assist their child in navigating their learning experience.

Clare Leung concluded the Coffee Morning, by updating the parents regarding the Borrett Road site redevelopment and town hall meetings with site neighbors.