

PRG You Said We Did February 2023

You Said	We Did
You discussed the high levels of engagement in school from our older year groups when they were in the younger years and observed a dip in those levels more recently, by year 10 students in particular	We added this as a discussion point in both our senior leadership and pastoral meetings. We agreed that wellbeing and student voice surveys as well as student leadership team panels planned this term would help us understand how students actually feel. We also agreed it is important to continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our older students and will send home letters with the Academic ERA Award winners that are selected every term. We also agreed that students in year 10 needed a visible display of year 11 milestones - a map of the journey from now until graduation and have begun putting that together using curriculum leaders, student voice activities and our sister schools. We will hold a year 11 launch in the summer term for students and families.
You said you'd like more clarity about the exams for year 10 GCSE statistics group.	We agreed this was needed and families of students sitting that exam this summer will receive a letter from Mrs Jenkins this half term.
You discussed the numbers of new staff joining the school each year and how you'd like more opportunities to get to know them.	We considered the suggestion of adding staff bios and photos on the website but that has to be an all or nothing approach and so we agreed to continue introducing new staff members in the ERA Chronicle each term.
You had some queries about how we are settling into the new building and what teething problems there might be.	We agreed it would be lovely to share an update on this, now we have been in the building for over a year. Ms Ayling is putting together a blog called 'Our building one year on' which will be in the ERA Chronicle and on the blog section of the website.
You discussed the behaviour of a minority of students in school who are not meeting our expectations. You had some questions about how the more serious levels of school sanctions are applied.	We agreed that further clarity was needed and added two 'spotlight on...' sections in this half term's bulletin: one from Ms Ayling about C3 and C4 and permanent exclusion and one from Mrs Jones about C1 and C2.
You asked for more information about the purpose of Wednesday afternoons.	Mr Harris, Assistant Headteacher in charge of teaching and learning, shared a spotlight on Wednesday afternoons and how we use them as a school called 'The Mystery of Wednesday Afternoons: What's the value of an 'afternoon off'?'
You had some questions about our catering provision, particularly around canteen queues and how to give feedback to our caterers about the	We reassured you that our dining space is designed and sufficient for our full capacity of 1200, we are told by our Accent regional manager that we have the biggest school dining hall he's ever worked in! We also reassured you that we're putting in outside catering options next year

offers at break and lunch.	and hope to be able to fund some covered outdoor seating areas in the quiet zone. We also asked our caterers to share a survey with students asking them for their feedback on the food offer and queue times. We have put that into tutor time slides next week.
You discussed homework and, in particular, the consistency in terms of how much and how often is set for different year groups and different subjects.	We agreed to update families on homework and wrote a spotlight piece in the bulletin about it. We know from our analysis that we aren't yet completely consistent with homework and will continue to focus on achieving greater consistency as we grow as a school.
You'd looked at the clubs offer (after school in particular) and asked whether additional paid for clubs could be offered.	We agreed to take a look at the clubs offer for the summer term and asked our curriculum leads to recommend some external providers. We're also very happy to hear from families who have recommendations of external activities and club providers, especially those that could be offered on Wednesday afternoons where we agreed the offer could be broader.
You talked about the current recruitment and retention crisis in teaching and the impact that could have on the quality of lessons at our school, in particular you discussed supply teachers and their role in school if there are any unfilled vacancies as a result of this national situation.	We explained that we feel very fortunate in that we've had very few, and only short term, unfilled vacancies (eight weeks without a food teacher this year, with the new, specialist and experienced Ms Walker joining us this March). We shared your concerns about the crisis and explained that, as a new school in our first year we had only very experienced teachers, in our second year again we mainly appointed experienced teachers and this was because most were the only teachers in the school of their subject. Over the last two years we have also appointed some early career teachers who, as they develop in their careers supported by our community, also offer the continuity and length of service that more ambitious, experienced teachers may not.
You had some questions and sought clarity over a few processes in school.	In particular, you wanted to know if the lockers could have a shelter over them, we agreed to see if that was something the school could afford, although admitted it's not very likely we'd be able to spend money on that in the current climate and reminded families that the lockers aren't for using in between lessons or keeping books in, they're for bike helmets and PE kits etc. You asked questions about processes around toilets, we do not lock any of our toilets except when they are being cleaned, we do log requests to use the toilet on classcharts, without a negative consequence, for safeguarding reasons.
You helpfully pointed out that the school calendar doesn't always update on the website.	We challenged our provider about this and they admitted the updates are irregular. We made this part of our IT team's weekly processes so that we know at the start of each week, the website reflects our own calendars and includes any recent changes. Thank you for letting us know about this.
You raised some concerns over the long wait for the school field and the impact that has on school sports.	We agree and have continued sharing updates as to the progress Wates are promising via the parent bulletin. We have meetings weekly to put pressure on and have explained the difficulty in doing so via the bulletin; as we are not the client, we rely on the DfE to get the field

	delivered and have no real power or influence over this decision. We can tell you that the drainage work is due to start next week (27 March).
You recommended a You said, We Did for students.	We loved this idea and have asked the Student Leadership Team to put one together using the various student voice surveys and panels that they are carrying out alongside the Student Council who have recently been appointed.
You asked for clarity over the future of the house system and the reasons for our decisions around this.	We agreed to write to parents separately to give more detail on this later in the term but explained that our early intention to divide the secondary school and latterly the primary school into four houses was interrupted by COVID. And that, as we began our second year in 2020, with two year groups so differently impacted by the pandemic we took the decision to keep achievement coordinators focused on a particular year group and their specific needs rather than divide them into houses. Then of course, further COVID implications were felt by children and another year group joined us with yet more different needs so we have continued in this way whilst we, as a country, get some more stability. We will revisit this decision as we plan the next academic year and keep you informed.
You had discussed the pros and cons of the virtual parents evening system and had mixed feedback as a group, some preferred it but some also missed making face to face links with key members of staff.	We met with Achievement Coordinators and Curriculum Leaders and have begun planning more opportunities, alongside parents evening for families to come in and meet with us. So far this year we have had assessment information evenings, winter concerts, the Christmas fayre and we have the e-safety evening and musical production coming up this term too but we'd also like to add some prize giving events to this list in the summer term.