



St. Olave's Grammar School Parents' Association Form Reps Meeting

Date & Time: Wednesday 10th November 2021 7pm-8.30pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Mr Budds (Deputy Head Teacher), Supriha Shetty (7B), Neetu Gautam (7B), Spuritha (7C), Rama Gandham (7H), Ritu Agarwal (7L), Shahida Mamanji (7L), Susi Rushton (8B), Claire Marshall (8B), Seema Singh (8C), Alyosha (8C), Aparna Gupta (8H), David Ducat (8L), Tharini Janu (8L), Sharmila Pradeep (9J), Shalabh Malviya (9K), Keerthi (9M), Kalpana Tanna (9N), Chandrika Ravichandran (10J), Ping (10L), Fatima (10L), Amina Bilal (10M), Victoria Cattermole (11J), Sangeeta Mead (11J), Asma Meer (11M), Cherry Walker (12O), Prem Chitkara (12P), Harjinder Singh (12Q), Heba Elsharkawy (12R), Sabina Fitzpatrick (12S), Joanna Riolo (12V), Mark McBennett (12W), Patrice Adams (12Y), Marianne Nealon (13P), Margaret Akpovwa (13P), Gifty Nortey (13Q).

Apologies: Tara Sheikh-Rao (8H), Elizabeth Garnham-Jong (8B and 12R), Bhawana Sanyal (9L), Zey Kagan (10N and 12T), Arunima Saha (11L), Amara Igwe (12Q), Rachael Peek (12W), Charlotte Rutter (13O)

Forms that need Form Rep: 11H, 11K, 11N, 12X, 13R, 13S, 13T, 13V, 13W, 13X, 13Y

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Welcome all new Form Reps to the first Form Reps meeting for this academic year and welcome back seasoned Form Reps and Mr Budds as we go through another year and post-pandemic. Thank you to all who have taken the time to submit their questions within the requested timeframe. Due to the current Covid-19 situation, it was decided to hold the Form Rep meeting via Zoom.

2 Questions for the school

2.1 CLASSWORK, HOMEWORK AND IPM

2.1.1 Year 7 - How much time should the boys be spending on homework each night?

This question has been asked and answered multiple times (please see Question 4 in FAQ on [FAQ Form Reps Nov 16.pdf \(saintolavespa.net\)](https://www.saintolavespa.net/FAQ_Form_Reps_Nov_16.pdf)).

Homework guidelines for Years 7-11 are available on school website as below as well as there is a link to the Homework Policy on the same page:

[Homework - St. Olave's Grammar School \(saintolavespa.net\)](https://www.saintolavespa.net/Homework-St-Olave's-Grammar-School)

2.1.2 Year 7 - Is there a homework timetable that parents can see to know what to expect when? (Aware that's mentioned in FAQ but not clear to reflect what actually happens)

Homework is set for each student throughout the School in accordance with homework timetables, which are issued at the beginning of each academic year for Years 7-11. The homework timetable is made available to the students at the start of the academic year for them to record it into their personal planner. Parents can access the Homework timetable via their son's planner.



2.1.3 Year 7 - Will the school consider using the show my homework app to enable parents to easily follow what work is due when?

This query has been raised and reviewed recently by the school. The school believes that there is more value in pupils recording their homework directly into the personal planner as this promotes personal responsibility.

2.1.4 Year 7 - Can we have a parent login to the students Team account?

Unfortunately, this is not possible but the parents should be able to access all relevant information in terms of homework set via their son's planner.

2.1.5 Year 7 - How often does each subject have an IPM and is there a timetable for them?

Details of the IPM Scheme are available on school website under [Teaching & Learning - Policies - St. Olave's Grammar School \(saintolaves.net\)](#). There is no published timetable available for IPMs.

2.1.6 Year 8 - Might staff be willing to put home work or work covered on the day to be posted on teams from all teachers? This makes it easier for those missing classes to catch up and do what they need, and what's expected of homework and by when.

In the first instance, problems relating to individuals and their homework should be discussed with the subject teacher. If necessary the matter should be referred to the relevant Head of Department / Faculty.

Students should coordinate with their subject teachers and Form Tutors to arrange collection of homework if they are going to miss a lesson due to music lesson or rugby. At times, they may need to coordinate with their peers in the same Form to collect the homework or the work allocated in a lesson that has been missed.

Action: Mr Budds to discuss with the concerned Department to explore the option of sharing the information about Sports events e.g. Rugby matches via Microsoft Teams.

2.1.7 Year 8 - If possible children have sufficient time for homework to submit and at least one week time to prepare for the IPM's.

Homework and IPM schedules are prepared in such a manner to enable students to submit or prepare for them within reasonable deadlines. However, if there are specific concerns, please communicate with the concerned subject teacher or Form Tutor.

2.1.8 Year 7 - How feedback is provided to parents about improvement areas in classwork and homework. Though homework are marked the feedback is a more of a score, is feedback on child's work provided from perspective so they can improve their work in future to produce better quality?

Feedback for classwork and homework is provided via Comments from subject teachers, highlighting areas for improvement as well as achievements.

2.1.9 Year 10 - Are there any guidelines for boys that how long should they spend on doing homework or achieving task? Specially with open ended questions to gain 9, they need to invest so hard and long achieving task.

Please refer to Homework Policy on school website.



2.2 DISCIPLINE

- 2.2.1 Year 8** - What is the procedure to dealing disruptive students in class and their regular impact on some classmates due to seating plans? Some students are regularly struggling to concentrate in class and also then have to listen to inappropriate language just because they had to sit next to disruptive boys.

All teaching staff are aware that disruptive, inconsiderate behaviour which interrupts other pupils' learning is unacceptable and that there is an expectation that they intervene to prevent it happening. If this is not happening, parents should report their concerns to the classroom teacher in the first instance and, if the concerns remain unaddressed, escalate by notifying Mr Budds who will ensure appropriate follow up.

2.3 PRIVATE BUS SERVICE

- 2.3.1 Year 10** - The school was looking into a private bus service from Kent (Gravesend, Northfleet, Greenhithe and Dartford) just like Lewis buses from London. Its along train journey and trains are again getting overcrowded. May we have some updates please as after GDPR the school cannot provide the numbers or contacts of the parents living in that area.

Action: 10M Form Rep Ms Sajid to forward the email in this context to Mr Budds who would discuss it with Mr Twose for further action in this regard.

2.4 CYBER ATTACK AND IT

- 2.4.1 Year 7** - Recent Cyber Attack: Whilst Year 7 boys were not impacted by the recent cyber-attack on the school, it would be good to understand what measures and steps the school have put in place to stop such an event re-occurring and contingency plans?

The school has taken this matter very seriously and a wide range of strategies have been implemented to avoid reoccurrence of such an event. Staff training, involvement of Cyber Crime Police, more stringent firewall protocols and Cloud-based backup solutions are some of the measures taken.

- 2.4.2 Year 12** - With the recent upgrade of IT in the school, why is the internet still not good enough as students are still being asked to download using their own data at parental expense?

No pupil should now be relying on personal data to access the internet in school. The school has recently invested in a total overhaul of its Wi-Fi access for the entire site, including all new and higher specification access points, cabling and switching. The issues around Wi-Fi coverage in the Pavilion prior to half term were known and were addressed over the half term break.

Action: If the issue persists, the concerned parents should email Mr Budds directly with further information.

2.5 ATTENDANCE

- 2.5.1 Year 7** - Can the school please clarify the late attendance marks that are given to the boys? As the school is aware there has recently been nationwide traffic congestion/road



closures and traffic accidents that are not through any fault of the children, our understanding is that boys are recorded as late but are also given a de-merit through something that is out of their control. Many of the boys set off very early in order to arrive at school on time and they should not be penalised for factors out of their control.

As per Attendance/Absence Policy, demerits should not be issued for lateness, but the school is obliged to record late arrival and an accrual of lates can result in a late detention. For information on contexts in which demerits might be issued, please read the Behaviour Policy (rewards and sanctions section) under the Policies section on the school website.

Action: the concerned parents should email Mr Budds directly explaining the context of this query.

2.6 SMARTPHONE POLICY

2.6.1 Year 7 - What is the school's smart phone policy? Boys have been advised that they should have a smart phone by some teachers, however there are some children who do not have this and parents that choose not to give their children phones, what is acceptable?

Key aspects of this question have been asked and answered multiple times - please see [FAQ on FAQ Form Reps Nov 16.pdf \(saintolavespa.net\)](#).

Please read Rules & Regulations section under school website.

Pupils are not expected to be bringing in smartphones and learning in class should be accessible for all pupils, irrespective of whether or not they have a smartphone.

Action: the concerned parents should email Mr Budds directly explaining the context of this query.

2.7 YEAR 9

2.7.1 Any school trips for year 9 students this year?

Unfortunately, there are currently no residential trips planned for Year 9. Some educational day trips and activities are planned for Activity Week 1 and Activity Week 2 in May and July of 2022.

Action: Mr Budds to discuss with colleagues in school and respond regarding the possibility of Residential trips for Y9, in view of the loss of these opportunities in both Year 7 and Year 8 for this year group.

2.7.2 Is there a recording or slides shared for the Year 9 Transition evening for parents who missed it? Sorry if I am the only parent who missed it.

Unfortunately, there is no recording that can be shared.

Action: the concerned parent should email Mr Budds who will be able to forward on the relevant slides.

2.8 YEAR 11

2.8.1 Will Y11 be getting less homework so they can revise for mocks?

Please refer to Homework Policy on school website. All teaching staff will be mindful of the pressures and priorities experienced by Year 11 in the run up to the January mock exams and learning will be designed to prepare pupils for the mocks and give pupils the best opportunity to perform to their highest level.



2.8.2 Could deadlines for homework submission not be set for after 9pm please?

Action: Mr Budds to notify teaching staff how to modify the default setting within Microsoft Teams so that submission deadline is not outside of 7pm – 7am.

2.8.3 Could the form tutor check that each boy attends at least 1 lunchtime club?

Whilst we recommend that pupils engage with the broader life of the School, the School does not mandate attendance of students at lunchtime clubs or societies. Students do also have the option to attend booster clinics or homework support groups as per their interests and individual requirements.

2.8.4 Could parents be made aware of important communications sent via teams as sometimes these messages are not passed on via the boys?

The School sends the information which it believes is relevant to parents via emails. Pupils get communication relevant to them via Teams. Pupils can share Teams information with parents if they wish, but information necessary for parents should not be sent purely via Teams and if there are concerns around information being sent by the wrong route/to the wrong stakeholders, then this concern should be shared with the school.

2.8.5 Will the boys be given any specific revision tips/strategies before the exams?

Yes, and this information will be bespoke to each subject.

2.9 COVID MEASURES

2.9.1 Year 7 - It is not mandatory for anyone to have the Covid vaccine, why are boys in Year 7 being advised the uptake is low for their year when many of them are not yet 12 years of age and it is for parents to give consent. Is the school placing pressure on the boys to have the vaccine?

Staff should not be putting any pressure on pupils to have the vaccine and this is the first time this concern has been brought to the school's attention. Staff do not know and are therefore not in a position to comment on the uptake, as this information goes directly to Public Health, not via the school.

Action: for the concerned parents to email Mr Budds directly explaining the context of this query.

2.10 PE/GAMES LESSONS

2.10.1 Year 8 - How about on PE day if children wear PE clothes from home. So that we are not in close contact with each other as the cases are increasing again?

This question has been asked, discussed and answered previously and the school has actively considered this option during the course of the last year, but will not be implementing it. The school will continue monitoring Risk Assessments for COVID related cases.

2.11 LUNCH

2.11.1 Year 10 - Is there a possibility of arranging a kitchen area with microwave where boys may warm the lunches from home?



Due to Health & Safety concerns, a lack of an obvious site where such a resource could be placed and the fact it would need to be supervised, this proposal is not one which the school can implement.

2.11.2 Year 10 - How do the school encourage boys to opt healthy eating?

The school will continue working closely with the catering company to ensure better standards and options for healthy eating.

2.11.3 Year 12 - The food in the Pavilion is not satisfactory for Sixth Formers and if they require the full meal of the day, they have to go to the Foyer. Can it not be arranged to provide in the correct setting to avoid unnecessary mixing of year groups?

The School is aware that it has taken longer for the new caterers to adapt to the needs of our Sixth Form than it has to work the main school canteen. The Sixth Form catering service in the Pavilion will be rebranded this term under the new name Café 1571, and will be supported by the launch of an app for Sixth Formers so that they can pre-order their food saving time and queues.

2.12 WASPS

2.12.1 Year 8 - Room 15 seems to have wasps problem. Wasps are coming into class (from window) during class. There has been concern raised that this is dangerous for boys with allergies to wasp stings and the fear of being stung during class is causing anxiety.

2.12.2 Year 12 - Potential wasp problem at the PA quad area where 6th forms have their lunch. Given there is a problem with room 13 and 15, which may indicate a wasps nest nearby which needs to be removed.

Upon receiving the Agenda, owing to the seriousness of this particular Agenda item, Mr Budds immediately raised it with the Premises Manager who has received no prior reports of wasps in these rooms, and whose Premises and Cleaning teams have not seen any evidence of this for themselves. The Premises Manager has conducted detailed investigation of PA quad area, Rooms 13 and 15 but no wasp nest has been found.

The school has a valid Pest Control contract. If the issue should present itself, the company can be involved for removal and treatment of any wasp nest located on the school premises.

2.13 DUKE OF EDINBURGH

2.13.1 Year 8 - What is the current status to join the Duke of Edinburgh scheme?

The pupils' involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme commences in Year 9. Three levels of award exist - namely, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Further details, including the enrolment forms and training modules can be found on associated submenu pages of school's website.

3 Any other business

- a) Query on the timing of Y12 exams – information provided by Mr Budds – these usually run after the summer half term
- b) Owing to Ms Andrews leaving
 - o **First Aid coverage** – A refresher training for several members of staff has been booked. The replacement staff member for Reception will be trained for First Aid as a matter of priority.



- **Assistant to Mr Holland for DoE** – under review
- c) Are students taught First Aid in school – **Elements of First Aid** are covered in the **Year12 Medics' Elective**.
- d) Current Clubs and Societies specifically **Maths in Motion** and **Vex Robotics** –
Action: Mr Budds to feed back after consulting the departments concerned
- e) Timeline for Y11 – information provided by Mr Budds
 - **Mocks in January** followed by **Interviews**
 - **Internal options evening - February**
 - **Options timetable provided**
- f) When there are long queues, food option run out for vegetarian menu –
Action: Mr Budds to get back after consulting the catering company

4 Date of next meeting – After half-term of February 2022

5 Close – I would like to thank **Mr Budds** for agreeing to continue attending our **Form Reps meeting**.

