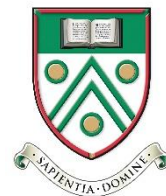


Year 8 Parents' Information Evening

19 October 2022

Questions & Answers



The following questions were asked through the chat during the online meeting. Most questions were responded to during the meeting, but the answers below may be more detailed than the response originally given.

Will the presentation shared with us?

- This evening's presentation, along with answers to any questions asked, can be found on the school website in the same location as this QA summary.

Curriculum and learning

Is it possible to know what exactly the students will learn (actual content or syllabus) in say year 8, 9 and so on? Where can we find it?

- There is an outline of the curriculum for each subject on the website under the 'Teaching and Learning' menu. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to develop the right skills and competence in the right order so it is important that you allow us to lead the students through it at the right speed! For that reason we also make sure they are provided with the right resources at the right times. If the teachers want them to access other resources, they will be signposted to them.

Is there a list of web based resources / logins / external online materials for access?

- Teachers will provide ideas and suggestions to students for additional resources they can access.

Can you please provide the names of the text books that are used in lessons, particularly in Maths and Science so they can be used to help revise for a test? Also, can a reading list for English be provided?

- We do not always use specific textbooks for subjects, as they are not always suitable for the ability of our students. Teachers will use the resources they think are best suited to the needs of the students and will take these from a variety of sources.

Would appreciate recommendations on the reading list for year 8.

- Please see the recommended reading list from the English department in the attachment below this document.

Without textbooks and with only question handouts how exactly are students supposed to go over their learning or prepare for tests? In lessons it is easy to miss key concepts and techniques.

- Students should have good enough notes and other resources they can use when revising for tests or assessments. Teachers will also tell them where they can look online for suitable resources.

How school and parents can support, if the student is meeting or below expectations?

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iPads and apps

Who do I need to email to get an app approved?

- There is a 'self-service' store on the device which contains all the apps we have approved for use in school and can be downloaded. We can approve other apps on request if we are sure there are no detrimental effects this might have. Students can request access by contacting the IT technical team and their request will be considered.

Recently there was aa homework requiring Thing Link. That particular app wasn't compatible with the format that iOS captures videos in. Is there a particular reason apps that are not compatible with iOS formats are being used?

- **The apps**

Can you access the online exercise books from home and can teachers provide specific links to the recommended subjects.

- Online exercise books - as parents you do not have separate access to these. Please simply ask your child to show you what they are doing, just as you would an exercise book. Teachers can view the OneNote books for all the students in their class.

Is there knowledge organisers to download from the website?

- Knowledge organisers - not on the website although they are used in some subjects. The problems with knowledge organisers is that they are complex for secondary subjects as there is so much knowledge to organise! We use a variety of techniques - including some apps - across subjects to help students embed the knowledge in their memories.

Reports and PTCs

When can we expect the individual report please?

- There is a 'data shot' for Year 8 after half term where you will then be sent a report for your child.

I would love to meet my daughter's teachers face to face, will it be possible to have face to face meetings with teachers about the progress?

Unfortunately the time offered online with individual teachers to discuss the progress is not enough as I wasn't able to ask much last time and the time was up quickly. Is there any way you can increase the time frame to discuss each subject in detail with teachers?

It does have 5 minutes appointments but sometimes teachers come just 2 minutes before the time finishes or don't even come at all. So, kindly ensure that the time counts when the teacher joins in the meeting please. Thanks

- At the moment, parent teacher consultations are happening through the online platform School Cloud. The date for the Year 8 PTC is Tuesday 6th December. We may review what happens next year, but this year's PTC will be held online.
- Whether face to face or online, 5 minutes is the normal length for a PTC appointment. It is not possible to offer longer appointments due to the number of students each teacher is responsible for. The aim of these short appointments is to give you an overview across the subjects of how well your child is doing. If specific issues are raised, they can be followed up in more detail outside the PTC meeting.
- We recognise that the appointments are not always used productively. We will ensure that staff are properly briefed about how to use the appointment time effectively, and will provide some further guidance nearer the time for parents about how to make the most of the PTC.

Do we get an invite for the parent teacher consultation?

- A letter will be sent out to parents/guardians nearer to the time of the PTC which includes details of how to log onto SchoolCloud and make appointments with staff.

Miscellaneous

Is there a residential trip for Y8 this year?

- No, there is no residential visit for Year 8 this yuear. However, there are a range of day visits during the year.

Just to double check uniform policy does it allows jewellery and nail varnish?

- *Jewellery and nail varnish - we allow ear studs only, not earrings (one in each ear), discrete necklaces for religious reasons. No rings, bracelets other than the Sikh Kara for boys. No coloured nail varnish.*

How will our children be guided towards choice of subjects for GCSE, assuming this will be done at the end of Y8? e.g. choosing the MFL they are good at.

- This happens in Year 9 - there is a well-established process for this which starts in January/February of Year 9. Towards the end of year 8 they have to make just one choice - which language they will take through Yrs. 9,10 and 11. There is also an element of careers education which comes later in Year 8 to start them thinking about possible directions for the future.

Is there an email address in particular for Y8 or should we use the general school email

- Please use the general school email school@lgs.slough.sch.uk and the query will then be passed onto the relevant member of staff.

Is there a reason that the library now shuts earlier each day than it did last year? My child car shares to school, and when the other child has an after school club, my child goes to the library to do homework while waiting. But the library now shuts before the end of after school clubs and they now have to wait in the sport centre, which is not a conducive environment to allow them to do homework.

The opening times for the library are as follows:

Monday	8.00-16.00
Tuesday	8.00-16.00
Wednesday	8.00-16.00
Thursday	8.00-16.00
Friday	8.00-15.30