

Present:

Staff	
Jon Lawson (JL)	Deputy Principal

Parent	Child(ren) in Year ...
Susanne Cunningham	9
Heather Ironmonger	9
Louise Neal	9&10
Carmen Dontu	8
Maria Blanari	8
(Parents of) Amirando Marcinkevicius	7
Ana & Arthur Pereira	11
Cheryl Thompson	7&10
Tina Collins	9&10

JL welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

1 Minutes from last Parent Forum

School Blazers

Mr Lawson explained that the Trust are yet to make a decision on the School Blazers.

2 Topic for tonight: Curriculum – 3 yr KS4 & Compulsory EBacc?

Mr Lawson gave a presentation on how KS3 & KS4 work at the Academy.

3 yr KS4:

We have extended KS4 allowing our students to choose their options in Year 8. This gives them more time to concentrate on the Reformed GCSEs that are bigger and tougher. We aim to complete teaching of all new material by Christmas of Y11, in order to allow time for revision and practice examination questions between Christmas and Easter. With this in mind, students only have 7 large terms to cover the GCSE material.

Parents views:

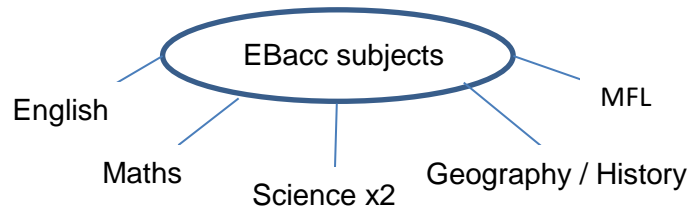
- Parents unanimously agreed that having a longer Key stage 4 with the Options in Year 8 is a good thing and an improvement on what has gone before.
- This allows students to focus on the subjects they like sooner
- Y7&8 is plenty of time for students to thoroughly explore the wide range of subjects and be clear about what they do and don't want to pursue.
- Starting GCSEs in Y9 has a positive effect because they know once they reach Year 9 it's time to get their head down and concentrate.
- Nobody wanted to return to extending KS3 for another year.

Compulsory EBacc?

Mr Lawson explained what EBacc was and what it would mean if the EBacc was compulsory for all students, it currently isn't at KSA but Ofsted, in their Draft Inspection Handbook, are clearly stating the governments intention / ambition of: ***It is therefore the government's ambition that 75% of Year 10 pupils in state-funded mainstream schools should be starting to study EBacc GCSE courses nationally by 2022 (taking their examinations in 2024), rising to 90% by 2025 (taking their examinations in 2027).***

Points to consider

- Students would have to choose 5 of the following subjects.



- The idea is that it shows that a child has had a broad academic education
- The key point is that it would be compulsory for students to take a foreign language.
- There is no certificate received for it, it is not a qualification.
- There is currently a national shortage of MFL teachers.

Parents comments and questions:

- It's not good to force a student to be forced to study a modern foreign language if they don't want to, they won't enjoy it and won't do well. You tend to work harder for things you enjoy.
- It's not good that if this is enforced; then students will end up with only one free option.
- It's good to have a language as an Option but not everyone will excel at it.
- We can't ignore the Government and Ofsted's stated ambition to increase EBacc uptake, we should be encouraging students to take a language by having languages taught in an engaging and motivating way.
- If this is what the Government wants, then there needs to be a way to promote languages and encourage students to want to study them.
- Students should start learning languages earlier, at primary school.
- Would EBacc make employers / universities view candidates differently? Mr Lawosn explained that there is only one university in the country (UCL) that you need a modern foreign language to be able to apply to.
- Schools could start to focus on EBacc and the Government could then change their mind about it completely – we would have wasted our effort and forced students to do a subject they don't want to and may not do well in.
- Yes languages are good but this does not mean that they should be compulsory.

Future Meeting suggestions

- Internet Safety (IH)
- Target setting, assessment therapies and revision (LHE)
- Careers and Aspirations – what careers advice does the Academy offer and how? (BH)
- Rewards and the new Rewards system (PS)
- Road Safety and After Schools club (JL)