



Nether Stowe School

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Parental Communication Arrangements 2020-2021

6th October 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you are well.

As I am sure you appreciate, the current pandemic and corresponding protective government measures will, unfortunately, make mass face-to-face consultation with parents and carers highly unlikely this academic year.

Nevertheless, we place a great deal of value and importance on the partnership we forge and develop with parents. The current context has allowed us to both reassess the effectiveness of our communication with parents and be creative in the way we address it.

Accordingly, we are removing the parents' evening events from the calendar and they will be replaced by the arrangements outlined below. The aim of these new arrangements is to provide more frequent, meaningful, proactive and purposeful contact with home – as opposed to one formal, isolated, parents' evening in the year. In effect, this will provide more frequent formal contact with home and facilitate quicker and more effective discussion around personal and academic progress.

Tutor Contact

All parents / carers will be contacted by phone by their child's tutor one every term. The purpose of this 10-minute call is to:

- Explore your child's work ethic and attitude to work and school.
- Discuss and support any well-being issues.
- Consider any barriers that need to be addressed and identify appropriate support.

It is important to note that the purpose of this call is not to explore subject-specific progress and development; the arrangements for this are outlined in the next section, below.

Tutors will be able to make calls between a set start date and end date. The dates for which are set out below. Teachers will make calls during school hours, between 8:30am and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday. Part time teachers will make contact on days which they are working. If there is a specific time which is convenient for you in the week, I would urge you to contact and inform your child's tutor in advance.

	Start Date	End Date
Window 1 (Term 1)	Mon 12 th Oct	Fri 11 th Dec
Window 2 (Term 2)	Mon 11 th Jan	Fri 26 th March
Window 3 (Term 3)	Mon 26 th April	Fri 9 th July

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This will provide three formal points of contact throughout the year and, effectively triple the current arrangements for formal contact. If you have not received a call in the allotted window, please contact your child's tutor or College Head.

Subject-specific support

To support good academic progress, it is essential to develop and maintain open lines of supportive communication between home and school. As well as the termly tutor calls, as outlined above, teachers will continue to make proactive contact with parents and carers, where there is an identified academic or progress need. For example, this may be to share excellent news about how your child has completed a great piece of work or it may be to explore a specific barrier to progress which needs to be addressed by school and supported by home.

Equally, it is important for parents and carers to be able to instigate such contact where you feel it is necessary. Accordingly, the email contact details for all staff are available on the website, via the 'contact us' link on the homepage.

It is important to remember that teachers are busy professionals, often teaching five lessons a day, for multiple days, with several after-school commitments. Whilst parents and carers are welcome, and encouraged, to request contact in support of their child, please be mindful of such commitments for our staff.

Following a parental request, our communication protocols will be followed. Teachers are required to prioritise messages and provide an appropriate response within three working days. This may, depending on the nature of the query, be a holding email before a full response is provided. Naturally, the aim is to provide a response at the earliest opportunity.

If your contact details have changed, please contact reception so that they may be updated on our system.

Most importantly, we are exceptionally proud of the start our pupils have made on their return to school. The developments to the school site are progressing incredibly well and I hope you have had the opportunity to visit our virtual open evening, featuring our amazing students, via the website and social media. Please take the opportunity to share with friends and family.

Thank you for your excellent and continuing support.

Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

Please note that Friday Oct 23rd is a designated staff training day.
Accordingly, school will be closed to all pupils

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