



THE CITY OF
LEICESTER
COLLEGE

Welcome to our first parent forum!
14th December 2023

AMBITION FOR ALL

TOPIC TO DISCUSS	TIME
Welcome and explanation of parent forum (HVH)	10 minutes
Parental survey results and feedback from parents (HVH)	10 minutes
Mobile phone policy changes (AAL) and discussion from parents	30 minutes
PTA proposal (HVH)	20 minutes
Further agenda items and AOB	20 minutes



What have we done so far?

- Parental information evening in September
- Parental communication survey (further results later)
- Parental drop-ins every Wednesday morning
- Coffee mornings with key areas (revision skills, literacy, EAL)
- Increased translation at events and on the website





Parental survey results

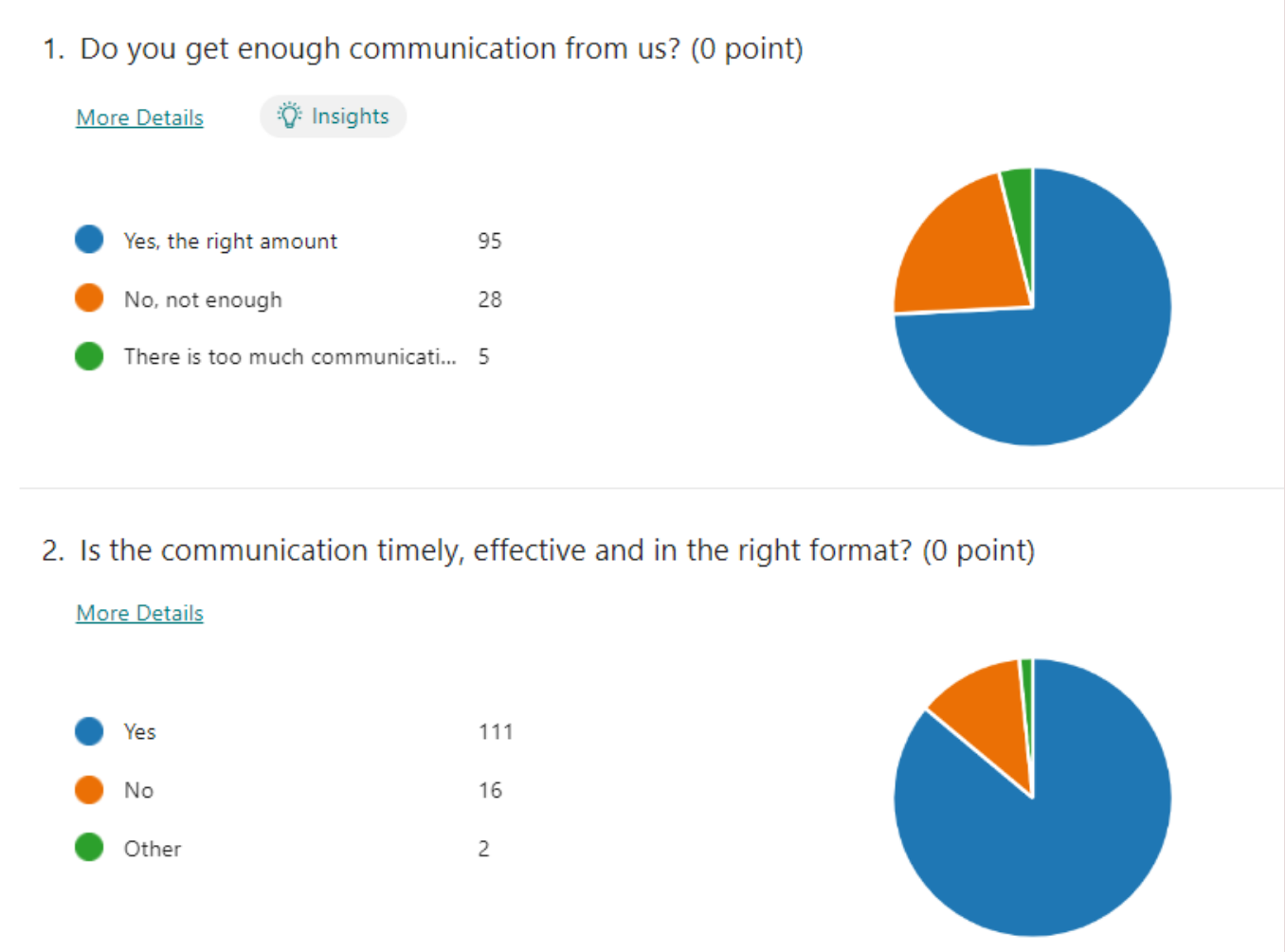
November 2023

129 responses

Questions focused on communication (including quality and quantity), engagement, parents' evenings and accessibility to support.



Quality and quantity of communication

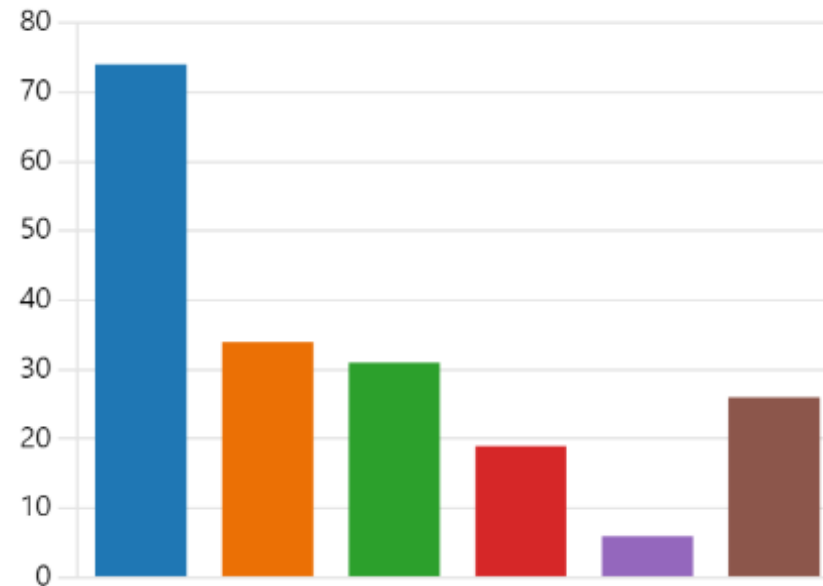


How would you like to get involved?

5. Are there other ways you would like to engage with us? Please tick as many options as you like. (0 point)

[More Details](#)

● A regular newsletter?	74
● A parental forum?	34
● A Parent Teacher Association?	31
● A regular coffee morning to cha...	19
● Anything else (please list below)	6
● No	26



Our plans to engage:

- Creation of parent forum – hopefully to run termly and adapt according to need or want (6th form focus, key changes to policies etc)
- A newsletter format is being created
- Evaluation of how we interact digitally
- Investigation into a Parent Teacher Association (more later!)

Anything else you can suggest or any comments?



Mobile Phone Policy – Change

Our current policy:

8.11 Use of Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the school site. The college understands that students may want to carry mobile phones for the journey to and from school, but for students in Years 7-11 who have them on site, they are to be switched off and away in students' bags. If a student is seen with their phone out they will be reminded to put it away. If they fail to comply with this, they will be issued a sanction in line with our college behaviour policy and appropriate to the level of chosen refusal and disruption to the college community. Students should expect that repeated refusal to put away their mobile phone when asked politely by any member of school staff will result in the confiscation of the device until the end of the school day.



WHAT THE RESEARCH TELLS US

- Mobile phones create low level disruption in lessons leading to distraction from learning – Tom Bennett
- Studies show that that banning mobile phones from classrooms could benefit students' learning by as much as an extra week of classes over an academic year (study conducted by LSE, The Guardian 2015)
- Unfettered and unrestricted access to 4G/5G in school time could mean students are accessing inappropriate materials and potentially sharing these with others (Sacpa – Safeguarding and child protection association)
- Studies show that having a phone on and in sight reduces concentration (Sacpa, Chu et al 2001)
- Constantly being in contact with home through the school day doesn't allow the child the freedom and headspace to be a child at school – checking updates from parents, siblings family and friends can cause its own anxieties (Sacpa, 2001)
- It is difficult to satisfy the requirement of the KCSIE (safeguarding) document if phones are being allowed to use for even part of the day in school (Sapca, 2001)
- Emerging evidence has revealed a very clear relationship between the introduction of social media and the massive increase in the incidence of mental health difficulties in older children (Organisation for Economic Development (OECD), the Office for National Statistics(ONS), OFCOM the UK Governments regulator for Communications and the Chief Medical Officer of the UK)
- Frequent social media use may be associated with distinct changes in the developing brain which are important for emotional learning and behaviour and for impulse control, emotional regulation and moderating social behaviour (Ref: Association of Habitual Checking behaviours on Social Media with Longitudinal Brain development)

PROPOSED CHANGES

- Students may bring a phone to school, but it needs to not be visible or audible throughout the day
- Students may on occasion be directed to use their phone as part of their learning, but only in the lesson directed by a member of staff
- Aside from being granted permission in a lesson, mobile phones can only be used on the plaza/outside the front of school before 08:30 and after 15:10.
- If a student has their phone out around the corridors, in lessons or anywhere on site without permission, then their phone will be immediately confiscated and handed back at the end of the school day (15:10). If they have a detention, they will collect their phone after it has finished
- Ear pods or headphones of any description should not be seen on site at all. If they are, they will be immediately confiscated and a correction entered.
- Students who refuse to hand over their phone will face severe sanctions in line with our behaviour policy.
- Any misuse of the device that may bring harm to others (eg taking a picture of a student or staff member without permission) will result in the device being confiscated and will be dealt with using the school's behaviour policy
- If a student is unwell If a student in KS3/4 is unwell, they should not use their mobile phone to contact home but let their HoY/ teacher know and the office will contact home, or if they feel they need to contact a parent urgently, support will be given by the HoY.
- Parents will be asked not to contact their child throughout the school day but to call the office if they have an urgent message.
- Sixth Form students may use their phones in Sixth-Form-only spaces.

Proposal – Parent Teacher Association

"No school can work well for children if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests."

Dorothy H. Cohen

"More than 85 research studies conducted over the past 30 years prove that kids do better when parents are involved. Grades are higher. Test scores improve. Attendance increases."

PTA website



Parent Teacher Association



Parent Teacher Association

24% of the recent survey respondents suggested that a PTA would be a good thing for the school to have.

What is it?

Parent Teacher Associations are non-profit organisations that work with schools and the wider community to provide support and a voice for all parents.



Parent Teacher Association

Pros

- Open lines of communication
- A neutral forum to raise issues
- Fundraising
- Places emphasis on collaboration

Cons

- It takes up a lot of time and can feel overwhelming
- Can slow decisions down if too many stakeholders are involved

Thoughts? Would anyone be interested in working with me to start the PTA?



Further agenda items and AOB

From your parent perspective, what do we need to focus our next meeting on?

- Curriculum and what your child learns?
- Extra-curricular activities?
- Rewards and sanctions?
- Reporting information?
- Safeguarding?
- Health and wellbeing?



Thank You

ThintKo Buznyg TapadhLeat Koszonóm Murakoze aDank Grazi Grazie

Blagodaram WaadMahadsantahay Takk BarakAllahufik Mèsi Chokrane Kiitos

Matondo Mercé Rahmat Dhanyavaad Xièxie Dziakuju Maururu

Taiku Terimakasih Wamin Tanemirt Tenki Gracias Barkal Kurusamanga GratiAsAgimus

Dakujem Mammun Grandmercé Hvala Arigatò Spacibo Danke Chnorakaloutioun Aciü Dankie Sagolun Motashakkeram

Gràcies Faleminderit NajisTuke Bayarlalaa KamSahHamnida Camon Gracie KopKhunKha

Efharisto Niringrazzjak Obrigado Saha Multumesc

Salamat

