

**Headteacher’s Question Time – Year 11**

**Tuesday 6th March 2018**

**1.15pm-1.55pm (G10)**

**Mrs Götschel, Mr Pearce, Mrs Adamson, Mrs Rolf**

**The students were welcomed to the session and the following questions were asked:-**

**Anisah Zulfiqar 11W - Why aren’t students able to have access to a water fountain throughout the day?**

**Mrs Götschel:** We do have a water fountain in the canteen and ideally it should be on at all times but it is turned off at the moment because it leaks and with students carrying hot food it is a health and safety risk. Once the new build is finished, we will be reviewing this.

**Imogen Pain 11S - When will the new sixth form block be completed and usable?**

**Mrs Rolf**: The build should be completed by Easter and up and running after the Easter holidays.

**Rhiana Alom 11S - Will we be able to get a tour of the sixth form building?**

**Mrs Rolf:** A tour will be arranged during the summer term by review group, on a morning, for year 11 students. The sixth form building is really large is very impressive.

**Rosie palmer-Downes 11W - Why are Year 11s so far behind in all our subjects, particularly Spanish and Science?**

**Mrs Adamson:** Students have an added burden now due to the new specifications and GCSEs. Students may be worried that they will not have enough time to finish the course but you should ask your teachers if they think that you will be able to finish the course and whether you will also have time for revision.

**Mrs Götschel** asked if the main issue with Spanish was regarding the new oral part of the exam. The students confirmed that it was and Mrs Götschel asked if it would be helpful if the Language department arranged a session which would focus on the oral examinations which the students agreed would be very helpful.

**Eleanor Pratt 11S - Will Year 11s be able to come into school for revision sessions over the Easter and May holidays?**

**Mrs Götschel:** The students were asked which subject areas they would like the revision sessions arranged for and they said they would like sessions in Science, Languages and some core subjects, possibly RE?

**Mrs Götschel** explained that it is difficult for teachers as they have to guess what exam papers the students will be completing, as this is the first time that they have been involved with the new specifications, whereas English and Maths have already been involved as these subject areas had changes made within the exams last year.

**Mr Pearce:** told the students that the value added score for LGS for English was excellent last year and the score was one of the best in the Birmingham schools for progress in both English and Maths.

**Kaia-Rae Samuels 11W - Why are Year 11 students having to teach ourselves content? How can we be expected to revise and do our homework effectively?**

**Mrs Adamson:** Miss Pickford has advised me that concerns have been expressed regarding homework and I have looked at the types of homework that the students are being given and it appears that it is actually revision work.

The students said some of the subjects do give homework that is revision work but they feel that all students are given the same revision work to do although different students have different ways in which they revise.

**Imogen** said that in Drama the students were given a booklet which was not readable. Mrs Adamson asked for a copy of the homework paper and the booklet so that she can check what homework is being given.

One of the students said that in Biology, 6 or 7 booklets were given to them to work on as homework and when they were in the lesson they then spent 40 minutes talking about this work when they have already completed this as homework. The students said that a mixture of information was given to them, but mostly it was questions and this felt as though it was a duplication of work which stopped them moving onto a new topic.

Another student said that the deadline for the amount of work given for revision during the one week holiday was too tight as there were too many questions to complete in a week.

**Phoebe Howard 11D - If teachers know how much content there is to cover at the start of Year 10, why have we run out of time to cover everything and why is so much content being covered using flipped learning?  We don't have enough time for revision.**

**Mrs Adamson:** The sixth form students have been using flip learning and it has been really effective. The students complete the work as homework before the lesson so that they can watch a video or read about the topic beforehand and they then go into a lesson and can really discuss in detail what they found difficult and how they can apply what they have learnt.

**Mrs Götschel:** The issue in timing has arisen by not being able to obtain information from Ofqal and how they will be assessing and this information has only just become available to us. Flip learning is about application, you learn about the topic during homework and you can then apply what you have learnt during lessons.

**Lotti Slowik 11W - How should I balance homework with revision? I don’t have time to revise after I’ve completed all my homework for the evening.**

**Mrs Adamson:** The problem is that homework does expand to fill all of the time that you have available. Perhaps you are giving yourself too much time to do homework. You could say to yourself that I am only going to work for 45 minutes and then stick to this timeline. It is about your management of time.

**Mariam Naseem 11G - Why didn’t we start our GCSEs early even though we were the first year to do all the new GCSEs?**

**Mrs Götschel:** There are new GCSEs but languages and core subjects do start GCSEs in year 7, the same as English and Maths. We could not start any earlier as the Department of Education did not give us sample questions or the information that we required regarding the changes. We now have the information but it has been rolled out very badly. Core subjects such as English, Maths and Science work on a five year period. In other subjects you will not have covered enough of the course to start the GCSEs earlier.

**Mr Pearce**: this is a national problem which every school has. Students need to try their hardest to obtain the best grade that they can.

The students made several points about the homework that they were being given:-

- if homework is given as revision then students want to revise content and do not only want to work on essays.

- five essays were completed as homework and then there was no time to revise.

- the difference between homework and revision is that homework has a deadline and consequences which makes students feel negative and as a result they do not do as well as they would like to.

- at a time when students should be revising they are being given too much work.

**Mrs Adamson** asked the student to speak to her to provide additional information regarding this but advised that by completing the work set, the students were actually revising but they did not realise this.

- Spanish homework is usually the work that students did not manage to complete in the lesson.

- the students sometimes have to stay at school until 5pm for drama which then means that they cannot complete all of their homework.

The students said that Friday is a revision day in Maths where they have a booklet of difficult questions and they then complete all of the work at once which they think is great idea.

**Mrs Götschel:** we will arrange for an overview to be provided to you in each subject detailing how revision is going to be built into homework between now and the exams. In languages, I will provide you with crib sheets of what you will need to learn for the language exam plus lots of vocabs. The teachers do have a plan, but the students cannot see this.

**Jasmine Belle 11G**

**Why is the prom so expensive?**

**Mrs Götschel:** the cost includes the hire of the venue, DJ, meal and video and photographs of the night. It is actually cheaper than last year.

**Karen Cassim 11S**

**If most of the students in your class failed an assignment, test or project, how would you respond? Mrs Götschel:** I would have to go over the topic again to make sure that all students understand it.

The students then asked the following questions:-

**Is study leave allowed?**

**Mrs Götschel:** legally you are not allowed to take study leave as you are on roll until the end of term. After May half term, students come into school just for revision sessions and to take exams but they cannot take any holidays until they break up at the end of term.

**Can we have revision before May half term?**

**Mrs Götschel:** English and Maths have organised revision sessions for the students.

**Mrs Götschel said that all of the concerns raised will be discussed during the Senior Leadership Team meeting that afternoon.**