

**PARENT FORUM MEETING  
MINUTES  
15/03/16**

Present: Jo Moulton, Richard Irvine, Gill May, Karen Lavington, Lucy Meardon, Kirstine Durk, Helen Whiterod (INCO), Jacqui Whiteman (DHT), Miriam McCurdy (Chair), +1.

**Update on the impact of changes to the exam system for each year group at GTS**

Year 11: No changes.

Year 10: New GCSEs in English & Maths which will be graded from 1 to 9, with the aim of showing greater differentiation between higher and lower achievers. Grade 7-9 is the equivalent of the current A/A\*, with 9 being above A\*. Grade 5 will be a top C to a bottom B and Grade 4 will be a top D to a bottom C the pass grade is a Grade 5. The aim is to keep the same percentage of top grades at KS2 SATS as the top grades at GCSE.

Year 9: The new GCSEs will extend to Geography, Spanish & French.

Year 8: Options are now made in this year, and they will be doing all new GCSEs.

Year 7: There is still debate nationally on whether this cohort will have to take the EBAC which includes English Language, English Literature, Maths, double or triple Science, Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language.

GTS will support children through these Government enforced changes and exams.

Current Year 6: If children come to Secondary School and are considered 'not ready' as a result of their SATS score, then they will have to retake the SATS test at the end of Year 7.

**The lack of GCSE computer science for pupils who are in year 8 now.**

There is currently no teacher available who has the expertise to take Computer Science forward and so at present GTS are unable to offer the subject. However, there are links with Mr Whiterod at Beran Instruments who is already teaching coding in 'Enrichment & Intervention' and may be able to oversee children who self teach Computer Science in E&I time. E&I time has been made to accommodate one-off GCSEs, such as Latin and Hungarian, and is also used for intervention groups to offer extra English & Maths.

GTS does offer both CNAT iMedia and ECDL as options. The CNAT iMedia does include a unit on coding.

**Chairing the Parent Forum Meetings next year.**

Gill May has offered to take over the role of Parent Forum Chair from September 2016.

**Items for the Summer Parent Forum Meeting.**

Helen Whiterod is both the Individual Needs Coordinator (INCO) and Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and raising standards lead for years 5/6/7/8. Her roles include

monitoring progress in years 7 & 8 and deploying Learning Support Assistants to particular children according to their needs. Her involvement with 'transition' from primary to secondary school includes making links with feeder schools to find out if a child may need support.

Helen has offered, at the next Parent Forum Meeting, to talk about the Individual Needs Framework and The Hardy Centre.

Meeting ends 8.15pm

**Next meeting: The Hardy Centre from 7 - 8.30pm on Tuesday 7th June 2016.**