Parents' Forum Meeting - Thursday 30th September

- A big thank you to our Parents' Forum for their time and contributions to our meeting
- The theme of the meeting was **Homework**

Present: Jana Cotterill Clark, Wendy Dominey, Rita Russell, Sarah Montgomery, Leanne Fitzmaurice, Denise Gibbons, Julia Terry, Celia Rennie, Katie Stafford and Sara Mashike

Examples of Homework working well:

1. **Knowledge Organisers**
   There was widespread appreciation of knowledge organisers. These were deemed to be really helpful in supporting learning. Parents reported that their other children who attend other local schools used Magna Academy knowledge organisers to support revision and completion of homework.

2. **Tassomai**
   Tassomai was seen as an effective tool for homework and learning. Parents like the way in which the questions in Tassomai are adapted to the progress of students. Tassomai is used across KS3 for Science, Maths and English and for Science in KS4.

3. **Self- quizzing**
   The theory behind self- quizzing was explained. It was agreed that the impact of self- quizzing is very powerful when completed properly.

Suggestions to build on the effectiveness of Homework

1. **Self- quizzing**
   There were some concerns that not all students complete self- quizzing properly and effectively. The importance of looking at the knowledge and checking learning as part of the self-quizzing was emphasised. It was questioned whether all parents knew the correct way to self- quiz. Those who had been to the Year 7 presentation understood the rationale behind self- quizzing and the correct way of doing it. The difficulty of sharing this information with all parents was discussed. Magna Academy will look into ways to communicate with parents, for example providing video support.

2. **Reading**
   It was felt that sharing age appropriate reading lists with parents would be helpful in providing some guidance of which books to select for reading homework.
   There was some concern about how long it takes to complete the questions that accompany the reading homework.

Magna Academy will produce a reading list for the website. Regarding the questions, students do not have to answer all the questions as they are there as prompts only to support writing a paragraph.

3. **Tassomai**

Could Tassomai be used for English, Maths and Science?

It has been agreed that all KS4 students will have access to Tassomai in English, Maths and Science which they can use for 'above and beyond' homework tasks.

AOB

Year 9 Drama - COOKIES play

Subject Lead for Drama, Lynsey Bennett, asked the Parents' Forum for their opinion about using a play called 'Cookies' with Year 9 students. The Parents' Forum will be feeding back to Lynsey this half term about whether they think the play is appropriate for use with this year group.

'Cookies' is a performance inspired by the true stories of teenagers that have had positive and negative experiences with social media and empowers young persons to stay vigilant and safe online. Topics that are covered through the characters' stories within this performance include; racism, gang culture, homophobia, sexting, radicalisation, cyber bullying and intense gaming through using dramatic techniques such as chorus work and narration. They meet others online who affect their lives and also learn about the consequences of leaving an unforgiving internet footprint.

Uniform supplies

It was raised that there have been some delays with Brigade supplying uniform orders. Magna Academy is aware of this situation and has already taken steps to work with a local uniform provider in addition to the current national provider.

PE Uniform

It was questioned why the PE uniform has changed. It was explained that the current PE kit has not altered. The expectations for Magna Academy PE remains the same. The only change came last year when there was greater flexibility in kit due to the COVID pandemic when we recognised that getting to the shops to buy certain items of kit was not straightforward.