

**Parent Matters 16 Oct 2009**

Venue: 2-1, 2-2

Start Time: 7.00 pm – 8.45 pm

**In Attendance:**

- Dr John Barrett, Ms Kathleen Manley, Mr Charles Png
- Number of Parents: 13

**Questions were gathered by the PSP and the Principal’s Secretary . All these questions were discussed in the dialogue.**

| <b>School’s Response to Questions</b>  | <b>Parent’s Comments</b> | <b>School’s Follow Up</b>  |
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| <p><b>Number of IGCSE subjects for YR 3 students in 2010 –</b><br/>We are not making it compulsory for students to take 9 subjects. We are strongly encouraging students to take 9 subjects. A large number of students and parents have asked us to offer additional subjects/more combinations. Most students can cope with 9 subjects. Our school approach is to allow for flexibility of students’ choice of IB subjects and hence the number of subjects offered at IGCSE. The option to take 9 subjects is to allow for breadth and flexibility of subject options at the IB level. It is the norm for students in international schools locally and overseas to take 9 subjects or more.</p> <p>Doing Malay or Chinese language as an O level subject outside of school – this can normally be considered in the total number of subjects.</p> <p><b>Why the emphasis on English Language and Literature? Why are English language and literature now taught together?</b> The way to</p> |                          | <p>School will follow up with parent of student taking Malay and Chinese language outside of school.</p> |

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| <p>study a language best is to study through its literature. If literature is taught properly, language is learnt at the same time. The Languages Department has felt that there is a good balance of time allocated to language and literature instruction – 7 periods a week. This combination of language and literature is also taught in a similar way at the IB level.</p> <p><b>Support classes</b> – There are currently Math and Science support classes. Support classes in future will be offered for other subjects as well.</p> <p><b>IB Programme – Can Yr 5 students who are struggling with IBD have extra help in coaching especially in EE and TOK?</b> In place, structures have been set up to help these students throughout the course. Students need help in structuring their work, rather than more lessons.</p> <p><b>What about IB Study Camps?</b> IBO organizes study camps. Such programmes are enrichment courses. They are useful but not essential. The school organizes IB camp for our Yr 5 students to prepare them for their study.</p> <p><b>When help is available for the Extended Essay?</b> – students choose the teacher of their choice as their EE supervisor. Teacher supervisors are not allowed to mark their EE scripts but are to give advice and encouragement. Students are guided on the choice of their extended essay. Teachers guide students by advising them on the approach to begin their research. Students are not required to come up with something new or unique in their research.</p> | <p>Examples of extended essays should be given as exemplars for future Yr 5 batches.</p> | <p>School will see to the provision of support classes in additional subjects.</p> <p>The school will advertise such courses for those who may wish to take advantage of them.</p> |
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| <p><b>IBD Students seem to have a lot of coursework at the same time.</b> IBD Deadlines are coordinated with sufficient time given. Problem is that students do not stick to the timetable and they then get several assignments to be completed together.</p> <p><b>Math teaching in Yr 6</b> – There have been changes in teachers as one of the teachers in Yr 6 has been ill. Math department has allocated experienced teachers to teach at this level.</p> <p><b>Exam Timetable</b><br/> <b>Could be the exam timetable be made available earlier?</b> The school has provided the exam timetable on the website and streamline the process of giving the timetable to students. We confirmed registration of the exams based on the results of the Prelim examinations. We registered our students on 14 Aug 2009. We are not allowed to register before August. On receipt of registration, only then are we allowed to submit deviations. At end of Aug, students have their statement of entry. We gave out the statement of entry to students on 25 Aug 2009. We are unable to give the timetable any earlier.</p> |  | <p>We will have a simplified timetable showing the IGCSE exams only.</p>   |
| <p><b>Student Message Board</b><br/> No student message boards are currently available. Online notice board run by the Student Council is a suggestion that the school will take up.</p> <p><b>Recognise special talents and support these special talents.</b></p>   |  | <p>Student Message Board suggestion to be followed up.</p> <p>School will identify the competitions that these</p> |

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| <p>Academically gifted and talented – we are aware of the students who are gifted and talented. We will be structuring the support to develop the gifted and talented.</p> <p>Talent in music or sport – what sort of support do they need? If they are already part of a CCA, they can develop their talent within this CCA. We support students with the talent in a non-CCA sport/activity to represent the school.</p> |  | <p>students may represent the school in. We are exploring competitions in the international schools domain.</p> <p>We will try to identify and support students who have some special talent outside of their existing CCAs.</p> |
| <p><b>Calendar Updates</b> – The calendar is available online and changes are also updated in the newsletter.</p>  |  |  |