

TVS Website – Parents and Travel – November 2007

Parents

On the Thursday evening before half term we held an excellent Parents Workshop which over thirty five parents attended, some with children, which was great. Parents were welcomed by three students from our Sixth Form and refreshments were served. The workshop was held in our lecture theatre and I was joined by Mr Howe, Ms Mullan, Mrs Irwin, Ms Wakefield and Mrs Channing from the Parentline Plus organisation.

Mr Howe gave an overview of Assertive Discipline and answered questions from parents on this subject. The parents were very positive about this scheme in terms of how it works and the way it has consequences and rewards built into it. Mrs Irwin and Ms Wakefield spoke about Year 7 in terms of the good start they had made, some arrangements that were in place like assemblies and lunches, and the effective use of the school planner. Ms Wakefield talked about Year 7 transition to the group and showed some lovely slides of the Year 6 transition day.

Mrs Channing introduced Parentline Plus to the audience and I enclose her summary of the aims of the organisation for your interest. " Parentline Plus is a national charity whose aim is to provide free and confidential support for parents or carers of children and young people. This is done by providing a range of services including a free 24-hour helpline, face to face individual support sessions, courses and workshops, on-going telephone support, e-mail support, website and literature on a wide range of parenting topics and issues"

Your local office can be contacted on 01733 551991 or e-mail suech@parentlineplus.org.uk

We will be working closely with this organisation and others as we endeavor to provide a range of support mechanisms for our parents and carers. Feedback from parents via Email to me about this first workshop has been very encouraging indeed. We have a number of Parent Workshops planned for the future and you are all welcome.

Workshops this academic year include:

- Thursday 18th October – Assertive Discipline and Transition
- Tuesday 5th February – Supportive Self Study - How to help your child
- Thursday 10th April – Media Arts – A Parents Guide to the specialism
- Thursday 13th May – Lifestyles and learning – Getting it right for your child

Workshops are held in the main theatre or lecture theatre between 6.45 – 8.00pm.

Light refreshments will be served on arrival.

If you would like to get in touch with me about general parenting issues related to school or forthcoming workshops please do so.

Hot news – We are holding our first Parents Forum on Thursday 29th November at 6.30pm. Just come along and get an update on the latest school developments from school leaders and have an opportunity to raise issues, concerns and ideas you have. Please make sure you ring in to let us know of your intention to come along so that we can plan for numbers.

Just contact me on rhod.campbell@thevoyagerschool.com or on 01733 383888. I am at your disposal at all times.

We intend to continue to work with and for our parents at The Voyager School and we look forward to seeing you at future events in the school calendar.

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Travel and Transport

We continue to work hard with a variety of partners to ensure that students travel to and from The Voyager School as safely as possible. We are in close daily contact with the Transport and Highways departments at Peterborough City Council and the local City Link and Stagecoach bus operators. Working with partners in a positive manner is the only way we will keep improving things in this context.

Did you know that over 75% of our students either walk, cycle or bus to school each day? This is really good news from the points of view of the health of students and the environment. Also, we have over 250 cycles in our bike park each day. This is another good facility at the school that students are taking advantage of. Well done you cyclists.

During the first half term we have made some adjustments to student access and egress to make things as safe as possible. We also have one or two more ideas in the pipeline which will further enhance this work. One thing we did was reduce the congestion in the evening by allowing students to exit via the student pathway or up the main school drive. This works well and we plan to have a pathway constructed on the main drive in the near future.

We have over 1800 students coming into school each morning and everybody works hard to ensure they all do this safely. Our students also play their part in this. Our colleagues from Peterborough City Council Transport department, Ms Sara Thompson and Ms Brenda Mayes, commented recently on how well behaved our students were coming in and going out of school. I agree, they are and this is very much appreciated positive feedback.

We have our own dedicated Safer Schools police officers with us each day to help us with this and other aspects of travel and transport. They do a range of safety related work inside and outside the classroom every day at our school and are very much valued partners indeed.

The Bretton 408 bus works well both in the morning and evenings but we have had a few problems with the Bus 1 from the city in the evenings but hopefully now all the road works have settled down in Peterborough this situation will get better. Taxi and van operators work well with us and parents who do bring their children by car to school are mindful of speed and safety aspects outside our school. We are grateful for their approach which is supportive.

We had the prize ceremony for our Year 6 Safe Travel Poster competition which we launched in the summer at the Year 6 Transition event at Bretton. Twenty lucky students won brand new cycles from 'On Yer Bike' in Millfield from our close partner Mr Nigel Ladd. Other competition entrants received tokens and cycle helmets. Councillors Sandford and Vellum from Walton Parish Council, which sponsored the project, came along to make the presentations and we were also joined by our school governor Mrs Maggie Kirkbride.

We hope to introduce a 'have a helmet' competition soon where students can get a new helmet for £1 by suggesting a helmet tag line to promote this cycle safety feature.

We have just applied to be part of Peterborough City Council Travel Department led 'safe journeys to school' project which starts in January and is all about schools working to make travel as safe as possible for all who travel to it. We would be delighted if we are included on this project.

We are staging some road safety training for our Year 7 students this half term and these sessions will be run by Peterborough City Council Road Safety Team led by Claire George.

If you want to talk to me about any issues relating to travel and transport please do so.

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