

Upper School Parent Forum

Thursday 18th September 2025

Attendees

Andrea Bingley (AB) – Chair

Emma Johnson (EJ) – Y7 Representative

Kirstie McAllister (KM) – Y8 Representative

Claire Stamper (CS) – Y9 Representative

Zoe McLeod (ZM) – Y10 Representative

Nicola Allen (NA) – Y11 Representative

Cait McNamara (CM) – Notetaker

Year Group Feedback

Year 7 – Emma Johnson

1. Trip to Willersley Castle

Room sharing details not yet shared.

Parents aware of no-phone policy – how will communication be shared? Will updates be uploaded to socials, and if so, when?

AB Response: Information to be obtained and shared after the meeting.

2. Bags & Coats

Concerns about bags being left on outdoor hooks, particularly in bad weather.

Bags are heavy; are lockers being considered?

AB Response: Lockers have been considered. A full audit will be carried out.

3. Canteen Provision

Reports that food (e.g., rice, chips) sometimes runs out by the last sitting; some children only had bread.

Staff Intervention: Incident with a small group of Y10 girls making unpleasant comments to Y7s – staff have stepped in.

AB Response: Check if issue has been relayed to the form teacher so it can be followed up. Specific issues to be reported directly to staff members.

Year 8 – Kirstie McAllister

1. Lockers

Continued concerns about heavy bags causing back problems.

Suggestion to consider fundraising for lockers.

2. Parental Introduction Sessions

In Y7 there was a detailed introduction session for parents. Suggestion to replicate for all year groups.

3. Homework Balance

Sometimes workload is too heavy, other times very light. Parents request a more consistent approach.

Year 9 – Claire Stamper

1. PE Kit

Concerns about design, size availability, and stock issues.

Year 10 – Zoe McLeod

1. Parents' Evening

Preference for face-to-face over online meetings.

2. Communications

Parents would like more notice to allow better preparation.

Year 11 – Hannah Williams

1. Trips

Will Y11 be allowed to take part in trips next year?

2. Prom

Parents ask if school organises prom.

AB Response: Children are consulted and take the lead, but parents may get involved. Date to be sent out soon.

3. Exams & Wellbeing

Request for pastoral support and wellbeing focus for students under exam stress.

4. Communications

More frequent, detailed updates requested instead of waiting for parents' evening.

5. Careers

Will there be a careers day?

AB Response: Yes. There will be a Careers Week with parents and companies invited into school. Visits to external places will also be arranged. Mrs Latta will circulate further details.

Closing Notes

Future Parent Forum meetings will be scheduled ahead of governors' meetings to provide feedback.

Specific staff will be contacted regarding actioning the points raised.

Next meeting will be held in January 2026.

Parents encouraged to contact CM with issues in the meantime.

School would like parents to be involved in fundraising initiatives again (ideas welcomed – e.g., a ball).

Meeting Ended