

Parents Voice Meeting Notes from the meeting held on 5th March 2026

Please note, this is a brief summary of discussions rather than detailed minutes of the meeting.

Agenda Items:

1. Triple Science at GCSE

- Part of our commitment to offering a broad, ambitious and academically rigorous curriculum.
- Stretch and challenge for those at the top end – with A Level and university options much more accessible as well as accessing STEM careers.
- Foundation entry on a par with 'combined science'. Trialling a group for combined science entry.
- Subject specialists – this helps to retain science teachers who enjoy teaching their specialism.
- Still leaves a choice of options subjects with 9 GCSEs overall.
- It will be compulsory moving forwards – see Labour's White Paper.

2. Staff Absence

- We have a staff body of 80 teachers in school, illness and sickness absence are in line with expectations.
- We have had two staff members off on long term sick. One is now returning. The lack of communication about this has led to some unease. Moving forwards, the school will be proactive in communicating to parents.

3. Parent's Evenings

- On-line has worked well for most families and staff: parents can join remotely helping to support working parents as well as disabled parents. We have seen an increase in engagement and a preference for structured, punctual appointments.
- Better time efficiency and reduced waiting.
- Greater flexibility for staff workload (in a job with very little flexibility, this is something we can offer).
- Automatic system – not reliant of pupils in gathering times on paper.

The vision is to incorporate more parental engagement opportunities throughout the year e.g. Open Classroom and Options Showcase. These have been well received. We will keep thinking about more opportunities and take parent voice ideas on board, such as a KS4 face to face event for example.

4. Teachers address

- Sir or Miss
- Mr Smith, Mrs Schaefer or Ms Schaefer

5. Duke of Edinburgh Award

This is offered at the start of Yr.10. We normally set parameters of <20 behaviour points and > 90% attendance for first review.

6. Yr.10 Work Experience

- We delivered the launch assembly to students back in September. We launched to parents/carers as part of the Year 10 Information Evening, on Thursday 18th

September 2025. Following this we sent out a copy of all the slides to parents/carers and the Own Placement Forms. The team has dropped into the Form Groups before Christmas, and it has been mentioned during assemblies.

- We have also set tasks and reminders on DPR about Year 10 Work Experience on Friday 28th November, Friday 19th December and Friday 13th February.
- Dates for Work Experience: 6th – 17th July. The deadline for Own Placement Forms is Friday 27th March 2026. Please email Mr Towsey gtowsey@westhatch.net for any further information

7. INSET Days

Rationale: they are protected time for staff to develop, skills, knowledge and collaborative practices needed to deliver excellent education.

- Needed so staff can receive up to date training throughout the year and understand current legislation.
- This year we have had them on;

Monday 1st September 2025 (1st day of term)

Wednesday 17th September 2025

Friday 23rd January 2026

Monday 1st June 2026 (1st day of summer term – not interrupting exams)

We have them on different days of the week to accommodate part-time staff. They are decided in the summer term and communicated home ASAP once ratified by our Governing Body ready for each September.

8. Yr.10 & Yr.11 Progress – throughout the year

DPR should provide all the information you require. We are again looking at parental feedback from this meeting and from the survey to see how we can shape this provision better for the future.

9. AOB

9.1 GCSE Statistic Information for Year 9

Paper 1 - Calculator - 02/06/26

Paper 2 - Calculator - 12/06/26

9.2 What is the Achievement Plus Programme (APP)? It's our provision for our more able learners; designed to stretch, challenge, and inspire students beyond the classroom.

What does it involve? It offers members the opportunity to develop confidence, leadership, and higher-level skills through a wide range of academic and creative experiences.

Examples of activities include: Public speaking workshops, Writing Competitions , CREST Award, Mathematical (logic) Challenge, University of Cambridge Talks, The Creative Showcase.

How are students selected for membership? Membership of the Achievement Plus Programme is based on the following criteria:

- Students' SATs/CATs results
- Students' Progress Checks and DPR

- Feedback from staff

Decisions are not based on a single factor, therefore students with the highest SATs/CATs results or best Progress Check data are not guaranteed a place on the APP – we look at the whole picture.

Membership of the APP is reviewed annually. This means that students could join (or re-join) the APP throughout their time at West Hatch High School.

What if you are not selected as a member of the APP? The Achievement Plus Programme provides targeted opportunities, in addition to the support offered to all students. All students are supported in lessons, whether they are a member of the APP or not. Membership does not mean these are the only students expected to achieved or offered academic support.

It is important to note the following:

- Teachers will “stretch and challenge” all students, with high expectations and support, regardless of whether they are a member of the APP.
- All students will have access to our school-wide Pastoral support and Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme.
- APP members will not be in separate classes or groups; they will not follow a tailored timetable. Whilst some subjects/classes will be “set”, membership of the APP does not guarantee students will automatically be in the top sets, nor does it mean members of the top sets are automatically members of the APP.

For more information/enquiries, please email Mr Towsey: gtowsey@westhatch.net