



St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Curriculum Consultation

I am writing to update you on the results of the Parental Curriculum Consultation which took place before Christmas. There were in total 135 responses to the online survey and 34 parents attended the after school meeting on 30 November. It was really pleasing to get such an enthusiastic response. In fact, colleagues in other Bolton schools were amazed that we had such dedicated parents. We have always known that this is one of the things that makes St Joseph's special but we do not take it for granted.

The survey and the meeting looked at the following areas of the curriculum. The length and timing of the school day, how many lessons there should be in the day, how pupils should be grouped, when pupils should start their GCSE courses and what subjects should be on offer.

Please see below a summary of what was raised and what we are intending to do as a result.

What you said	What school will do
90% said there should be less but longer lessons.	We intend to run 5 one hour lessons a day next year. To keep the amount of time each subject gets constant, this will mean that lessons will be timetabled over a two week period next year.
93% said more time should be spent on GCSEs. You said it would give greater opportunity to study materials in depth and allow pupils to focus on what they enjoy.	We intend to start GCSE courses from the start of Year 9 next year.
Some felt that Year 9 was currently a 'missed opportunity'.	Departments will be restructuring their planning so that Year 9 is about developing essential skills, not just more content.
71% said that they felt that their child would cope studying a Modern Foreign Language (MFL) to GCSE and 57% said their child would be better off having done so.	We are looking to make a Modern Foreign Language GCSE compulsory for most, but not all, pupils from next year.
Some felt that when the work was not pitched right, behaviour could be a problem in some groups.	Heads of Department will future review schemes of learning to ensure they are matched to the different needs of each group. We will allow fluidity for students who need a different provision to move groups.
11% felt that the provision in MFL would have to be high quality if it was to be studied to GCSE.	We have recruited new, high calibre staff to the MFL Department this year and we are already starting to see much better engagement. We have organised a Spanish exchange to contextualise learning.



Diocese of Salford





What you said	What school will do
67% felt that the new grouping arrangements in Years 7,8 and 9 were better for their child and the most popular model on the evening was one with an extension group and two parallel bands.	We are hoping to refine the banding arrangements next year in line with that model.
63% felt that more opportunities for practical and creative based learning would be of benefit to their child.	We are looking to move towards a 'bucket list' entitlement model for extra curriculum provision and to expand the vocational GCSE equivalent courses on offer.
On the evening, some radical ideas for the school day were discussed such as a 7am start and two short lunches. The most popular was for an early start, a shorter lunch and an earlier finish. This allows quality time for after school clubs.	We are currently in discussion with Transport for Greater Manchester over whether they will provide buses to accommodate such a change. A 7am start however, is highly unlikely!

If you feel you have anything further to share on any of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and input. I feel that as we continue to work together, we will grow as a Catholic community of learners.

Yours sincerely

M Graham

M Graham
Deputy Headteacher