



Making the most of your upcoming Parents' Evening.

We look forward to welcoming you to discuss your child's progress. We appreciate that this is an important opportunity to discuss your child with subject specialists and therefore it is important to maximise the time available in each 5-minute appointment, so that you are well informed and supported.

What to expect

There will be some parking on site.

The evening takes place in the main hall which is accessed via reception and a small set of stairs. Please do contact us to let us know if you will need assistance.

Teachers will be sat in faculty areas with name labels on their desks. Additional seating is provided whilst you wait for your appointment.

There will be staff on hand to direct you to staff and to answer any questions you have.

Be prepared

Bring your list of appointments with you so that you know who you need to see and when.

If you have specific questions write them down beforehand, it is also useful to bring a piece of paper to briefly record key information. It is also useful to speak with your child beforehand to see if they have any questions about specific subjects.

Let the teacher speak

As you only have 5 minutes with each teacher it is best to let the teacher speak first so that they can cover what they need to, expect to have feedback on your child's levels of effort; engagement with homework; progress in lessons and behaviour as well as outlining any upcoming assessments. There will be time for you to ask questions and seek clarification around anything which has been discussed.

Try not to compare

Avoid focusing on comparisons between your child and their peers- or even their siblings. The teacher will focus on how *your* child is achieving against expected levels of their age. It isn't useful to ask how their performance compares to other in the class, try and stay focused on your own child.

Focus on your child's level of effort and attitude towards learning

Your child's effort is important and should not be underestimated; it is as important as achievement as it reflects your child's behaviour and motivation to succeed.

Ask for a quick review

Ask what your child's strengths and areas of development are this will give you a succinct understanding of their performance and also help you support your child at home.

Deal with the unexpected productively

We hope that teachers will have communicated with you in advance via a phone call, email or meeting if there are concerns around your child. However, if the discussion reveals a negative aspect of learning behaviours this can sometimes come as a surprise.

If you do hear something unexpected ask how you can work with the teacher and your child to support and ask for an update and follow-up conversation from the teacher to update you.

Remember, we are all working towards a common goal: your child's success and happiness and turning their **potential into reality**.