Workshops

Year 9 Options

A very successful number of meetings were held for the Year 9 parents during January 2013. Parents were invited to come to information sessions about choosing GCSE options in order to help their daughters make informed decisions and choices. Ms Higgins was able to explain the options process and answer key questions clarifying any misconceptions. Parents found this to be a very useful experience; one said that this was the first time she had understood how to help her daughter make the right choices. The Careers Advisor, Brian Eastty, also attended in order to explain the different career paths the girls can take.

Year 10 Maths Intervention

We also worked with the Maths department who organised special meetings for Year 10 parents and their daughters. Parents were given dates of exams, number of days left for revision and played the ‘Maths Domino’ activity showing them the type of work their daughters cover in class and how challenging it is. They also looked at accessing maths from home through “My Maths” on the computer. Parents could see if their daughters had managed to keep up to date and now know how to encourage them to keep up with the work. The girls and their parents were also provided with a maths CD which explains how to overcome difficulties with their maths. It ended with both parents and students completing various mathematical activities and parents promising to keep a check on the girls’ homework.

Year 11 Pupils with parents receiving their Mock Exam Results

Once again, this January, Year 11 students were invited to attend special meetings with their parents in order to receive their Mock results. They received tips on how to support their daughters’ work and improve their GCSE grades in the summer exams. Then both parents and daughters completed an action plan about what they were going to do in order to attain their target grades in the GCSE exams.

School Specialism Team

Over the past year parents and their daughters have attended films directed and produced by female film-makers. The cinema project, organised by the School Specialism team, gave opportunities for families to come together in a safe environment and enjoy discussions of the films watched. This term we invited the participants to a focus group evaluation workshop. It was interesting to hear that most felt there was a gap in the market for women film-makers.

Coffee Morning at the Mulberry and Bigland Green Centre

We had our first coffee morning on 14th February with approximately ten people including Dr. Vanessa Ogden joining the group discussion. It was a very informal session discussing various topics, the ongoing home school communications, and culminating in what the new building could offer to learners in the near future. We had interesting suggestions such as plumbing, first aid and self defence courses which Sabina and Penny are investigating.

Adult Learning Activities

We held the following adult learning classes this term: A ten week accredited course in Volunteering in your Child’s School, ICT Spreadsheets, a 7-week Fruit Carving course, Literacy for Adult Learners, Maths for Beginners and Zumba Keep Fit. We have also had a 5 week Building Skills and Confidence course and an Interpreters level 2/3 course. We also worked with the Maths department who organised special meetings for Year 10 parents and their daughters. Parents were given dates of exams, number of days left for revision and played the ‘Maths Domino’ activity showing them the type of work their daughters cover in class and how challenging it is. They also looked at accessing maths from home through “My Maths” on the computer. Parents could see if their daughters had managed to keep up to date and now know how to encourage them to keep up with the work. The girls and their parents were also provided with a maths CD which explains how to overcome difficulties with their maths. It ended with both parents and students completing various mathematical activities and parents promising to keep a check on the girls’ homework.

If you are interested in any adult learning please contact Sabina. Please watch out for the September enrolment form.

Contact us

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Trips

This term Sabina, together with the parents, made a number of trips. They visited the Southbank Centre with the Specialism team to support the students who had been involved in ‘Light Show’ at the Hayward Gallery. The parents also visited the Imagine Children’s Festival, where parents participated in various activities. One mother said that she “loved ‘Light Show’” and would love to visit other exhibitions.

Sabina, together with the Interpreting adult learning group, attended Shrek The Musical in Drury Lane, Covent Garden. It was an exciting evening as the mothers travelled on public transport and had a night out away from the family. This gave them the opportunity to get to know each other better and have fun, as they had worked extremely hard on their Interpreting Level 3 Course.

Penny and Sabina also made a trip to the Cambridge Theatre to see Matilda. It was enjoyed by all and the mothers left feeling impressed with the plot, characters and the staging of the Roald Dahl story. The trip was a reward for the adult learning group, who had completed their ICT exams.

Recently Sabina together with a few parents went to the Parent Annual Conference organised by the Tower Hamlets Parental Engagement team and held at the Osmani Centre. There were a variety of workshops, including Raising Aspirations and Post 16 Choices. The parents found it extremely interesting and useful. They also heard talks by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Monica Forty, the Head of Learning and Achievement Birth to Eleven, who were both inspirational. The closing remarks were by Isobel Cattermole, the Director of Children’s and Family Services, who is retiring.