



The Henrietta Barnett School

2026 Parent Survey

Calendar, Parent Information & Consultation Evenings



Authenticity - Kindness - Curiosity
Connection - Endeavour

www.hbschool.org.uk

From the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

At the beginning of 2026, we shared a survey with you regarding the school's approach to the calendar and format of Parent Information and Consultation evenings, having also surveyed staff on the same issue and reviewed the issue strategically. I write now to provide some feedback on responses to the parent survey and to give an outline of how we will be developing our practice.

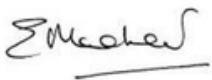
The survey was completed by 152 parents, of whom:

- 43 (28%) were parents of Year 7 students
- 25 (16%) were parents of Year 8 students
- 29 (19%) were parents of Year 9 students
- 13 (8%) were parents of Year 10 students
- 20 (13%) were parents of Year 11 students
- 18 (12%) were parents of Year 12 students
- 9 (6%) were parents of Year 13 students

(5 respondents had more than one child at school).

Thank you to all parents who completed the survey.

With very best wishes,



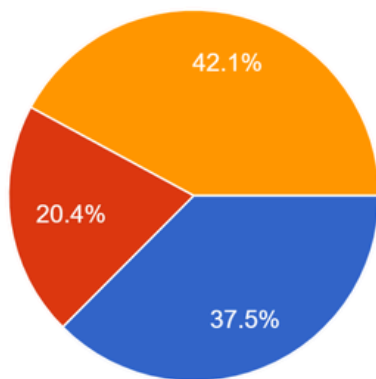
Mrs. MacLeod
Headteacher

Questions About Parent Information Evenings

These questions were about the format of the information evenings held at the beginning of every academic year.

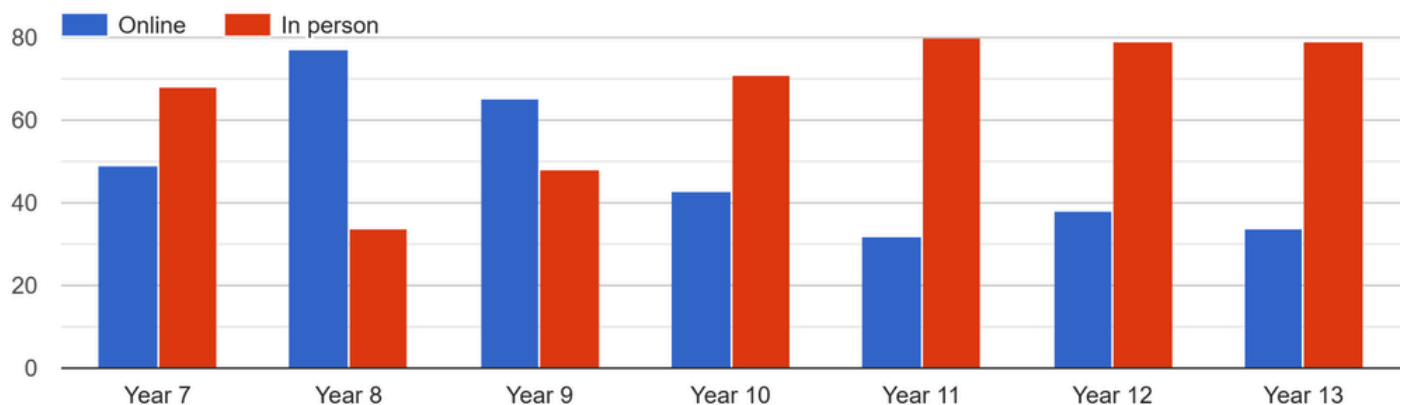
Which of the following statements most closely matches your view of the format of parents' information evenings in September/October?

152 responses



- All parent information evenings should be in person.
- All parent information evenings should be online.
- A hybrid approach to information evenings is the best approach: online for some year groups and in-person for others.

If a hybrid approach is continued for information evenings, what would be the best way of managing the event for each year group, in your opinion?

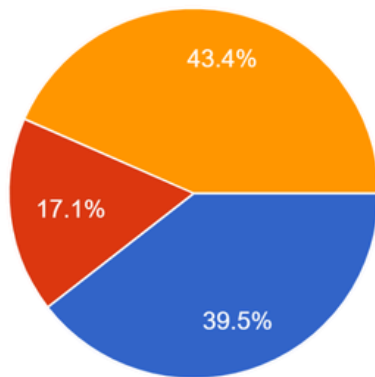


Questions About Parent Consultation Evenings

These questions were about the parent consultation evenings where parents are given subject-specific feedback by teachers on their child's progress.

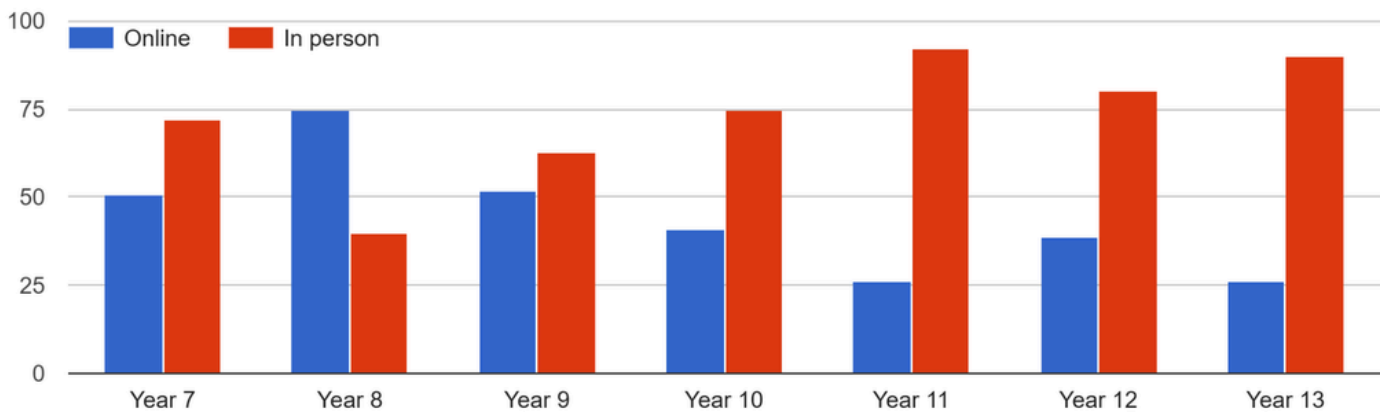
Which of the following statements most closely matches your view of the format of parents' consultation evenings?

152 responses

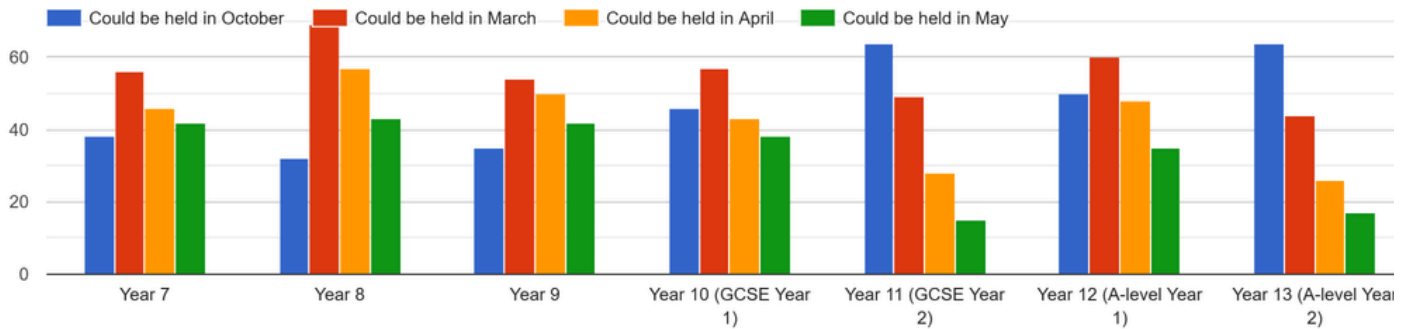


- All parent consultation evenings should be in person.
- All parent consultation evenings should be online.
- A hybrid approach to parent consultation evenings is the best approach: online for some year groups and in-person for others.

If a hybrid approach continues for consultation evenings, what would be the best way of managing the event for each year group, in your opinion?



Scheduling parent consultation evenings in the school calendar is a complex process. Whilst we understand that the ideal time from a parent’s perspective is likely to be late in the Autumn term or early in the Spring term, it is impossible for all to be held within a short window of time: it is inevitable that some will need to be earlier or later. Please tick the table below to give your opinion as a parent on which year group can reasonably have evenings outside the window of November - February.



What are the most important advantages of online evenings in your opinion?

- 83% respondents ticked the option ‘More compatible with parents’ working lives as can be attended from work/without coming in and out of school’
- 51% respondents ticked the option ‘Appointments keep to allotted times’
- 48% respondents ticked the option ‘Can be attended by parents/students in different locations’
- 37% respondents ticked the option ‘Less crowded/noise disturbance than in person parents evenings’.

What are the most important advantages of in-person evenings in your opinion?

- 93% respondents ticked the option ‘Meeting the teacher face to face’
- 62% respondents ticked the option ‘Appointments don’t get cut off abruptly’
- 43% parents ticked the option ‘Having the opportunity to experience the school’s environment’.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about parent information and/or consultation evenings and how they could be developed/improved?

In response to this question, there were 64 responses. The most common themes were:

- A desire to have longer parents’ evening slots
- More opportunity in parents’ evening slots to interact with the teacher e.g. asking questions, giving feedback
- Having written feedback as well as/before a parents’ evening so that this can be discussed at the parents’ evening
- Having more frequent parents’ evenings

Key Takeaways

- There is a small but clear majority in favour of keeping a hybrid approach to both parents' information and parents' consultation evenings; this echoes the staff survey and it is clear that the convenience in terms of reduced travelling and transport, childcare for younger siblings and comfort of meetings happening either in parents' own homes or workplaces is valued.
- There is endorsement of the idea that welcome evenings held online are better suited to Year 8 and 9 than in other year groups; however, this is less clear for Year 9. There is endorsement of the idea that consultation evenings held online are better suited to Year 8, but in person for other year groups. This highlights an issue- also discussed by leadership that whilst a hybrid approach is broadly supported, for most year groups it is felt that in-person is better. This is different from staff responses which indicated that online Year 10 and potentially Year 12 would work, focusing in-person evenings on the second year of a key stage.
- There was a reasonable level of support for Year 7,8,9,10,12 parents consultation evenings being in March, April or May; it is clear that holding Year 11 and 13 parent consultations earlier in the year is important to parents. This broadly reflects responses from staff, some of whom emphasised Year 10 and Year 12 as evenings which could be held later in the academic year when there was more available progress information from students in their first year of a key stage.
- Free text comments appear to highlight an understandable desire for parents to have more time to speak to teachers at consultation evenings- either through length of appointment or through frequency of evening. They also highlighted some desire to change emphasis in terms of content covered, including having written information sent in addition to the parents' evening.

Moving forwards with parents' information and consultation evenings 2026-7

Informed by responses to our surveys and by other educational factors, some adjustments have been made to our calendar and format of parents evenings for the 2026-7 academic year:

- Welcome and information evenings will be held in person throughout September for Year 7, 10 and 12 as usual. An additional information evening will be held in person (previously online) for Year 8 parents, and any Year 9 parents who would like to attend.
- Whilst the timing and format of Year 13 and Year 11 parents' consultation evenings remain the same (in person, October and early February respectively), we have moved the timings of the other parents' consultation evenings:
 - Year 7 will move from Autumn to February and will be held in person. This gives more time for teachers to become familiar with new students and for any fluctuations in progress due to newness to have resolved;
 - Year 8 will move from Spring to November and be held online, as this year;
 - Year 9 will move to Spring to November and be held in person rather than online;
 - Year 10 will move from Autumn to May (online) so that the discussions can focus on action points learned in the Year 10 exams;
 - Year 12 will move to the Spring Term and be held in person, giving more time for teachers to become familiar with new students and any fluctuations in progress due to the KS4-5 transition to have been resolved.
- The above arrangement ensures that parents of all year groups have at least one opportunity as standard to come into school: information evening, consultation evening or both. The consultation evenings have also been placed more strategically through the year (or two year period of an exam key stage) to reflect the most helpful feedback points.

- We will of course keep these timings under review and make modifications for the following year if it is felt necessary.
- In response to parents' feedback that the quality of discussion be improved and online appointments feel abruptly cut off, we will discuss this with teachers and aim to develop/improve management of these appointments where necessary.
- In response to feedback that appointments should be longer, this is always a delicate balance, particularly in younger years, with maximising availability of subject teachers, many of whom teach multiple classes at Key Stage 3. However, we will review this further as we recognise 3 min appointments are very short.
- In terms of feedback that parents' evenings are more frequent or written information be sent home in addition, it is worth outlining the school's commitment to staff wellbeing and the practicalities surrounding this. A higher frequency of consultation evenings in the calendar requiring teacher presence would considerably add to workload and would also impact on the ability of the school to run other evening events. Equally, requiring teachers to provide written feedback in addition to parents' evenings would in many cases be a duplication of effort and significant extra workload. As a state school mindful of the wellbeing of its already dedicated staff, these would not be reasonable management requests. We will also consider further how opportunities for parents to have appointments with A-level teachers can be maximised.
- However, we do take on board the fact that it would be great to offer further opportunities for parents to come in and meet staff and leaders more frequently. Therefore the coffee morning initiative started by Mrs Leek this year with Year 7 and Year 9 will be rolled out to all year groups in 2026-7 to provide another, less formal opportunity for parents to come in to pastoral leads and members of SLT.



The
Henrietta Barnett
School