

# **Parkstone Grammar School**

## **Responses to the iNet online conference leaflet**

**Parkstone is a girls' school in Poole, Dorset. The following ideas were generated by discussion between representatives from all year groups.**

# Curriculum

- Languages:
  - It was suggested that studying a language should be compulsory at GCSE level.
  - Attention was drawn to the rise of e.g. Chinese and its subsequent position as perhaps a more relevant language to learn in today's society.

# Curriculum

- Religious Education:

- More structure should be given to compulsory R.E. lessons to make them more valuable.
- R.E. should focus more on philosophy and ethics as society becomes increasingly secular and multifaceted.

# Curriculum

- Physical Education:
  - Better provision of sports facilities outside of school would encourage people to lead a more active lifestyle.
  - For those who are not sporty, more compulsory P.E. lessons would not be useful and productive use of free periods would be preferable.
  - A wider choice of activities should be provided for pre-GCSE level students.

# Curriculum

## ■ General points:

- Key Skills in ICT should be incorporated into General Studies or PSHE for students no longer studying it.
- Subjects in years 8 and 9 should have more equal weighting in the timetable.
- Taster lessons in new subjects are vital to ensure successful options choices.
- Attention needs to be given to improving basic literacy and numeracy skills.

# Student Voice

- Schools should have student governors to ensure that they reach their full potential.
- Students should be allowed to make constructive suggestions towards their teachers.
- Student interview panels can provide real insight when employing new teachers.

# Student Voice

- Student Council:
  - All schools, including junior/primary schools, should have an active student council to ensure that pupils have a knowledge and respect for the powers of the student voice.
  - Meetings should be regular and accessible, with a fruitful dialogue between representatives and other students.

# Technology

- Teachers need to be trained and confident enough to use new technology effectively.
- However technology should not be used for the sake of it.
- Students should be consulted on whether they find e.g. smart boards effective with different subjects/teachers.
- Technology does not have to be complicated and simple programs can be used to help different learning styles.

# Technology

- Students should be involved in using the technologies, not just observers.
- Technology is a serious investment and should be cost efficient.
- Technology should only be installed once basic provision of textbooks etc. is achieved.

# Assessment for learning

- Parents need to be aware of their children's progress and Parents' Evenings should be made more productive.
- If assessment becomes too frequent it can impede learning.
- Effective use of the mark scheme is important among both teachers and students.

# Assessment for learning

- Feedback from teachers is important and should involve a grade and a personal comment in some form.
- Arts subjects need to give more constructive comments as it is less easy for students to recognise mistakes.
- Teachers should set targets for the next piece of work.
- More consistency between teachers, especially among departments, is essential to guarantee that all students have the same change of success.