

January 2020

Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 6th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a review of the school curriculum we have made the decision to adopt a three-year Key Stage Three, with all students making their GCSE choices in Year 9. The main reason for this decision is to ensure all pupils are able to experience a broad and balanced curriculum before making choices as to which optional subjects they will study in Years 10 and 11. All GCSE and equivalent qualifications started in Year 10 are designed as two-year courses.

Horbury Academy is working alongside Ossett Academy as part of the curriculum design to ensure it meets the Accord Curriculum Principles (attached). This is a comprehensive process taking place over the course of the academic year. As plans are finalised, these will be shared on the school website.

The transition to a three-year Key Stage 3 will take place in September 2020 with the current Year 8 cohort making their GCSE option choices in Year 9. Therefore there will be no Options Evening this year.

I would however, like to invite you to the Year 8 Parents' Evening on **Thursday 6th February 2020**

The evening will run from 4pm to 7pm, in which time there will be opportunities for you to engage in five minute appointments with subject staff to gain an update on your child's progress. Details of where staff are located will be available on the evening.

You can make appointments through our MCAS app, introduced in our recent letter. Appointments can be made from Monday 27th January 2020 until Wednesday 5th February 2020. Should you require additional support with downloading the app, the booking process, or wish to discuss your individual circumstances in relation to appointments, please contact me at jmirzai@horbury.accordmat.org or 01924 282740.

This evening will be an excellent opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress in all subjects. I am sure that you would like to take this opportunity to support your child in his/her studies so he/she can maximise their potential.

Students are encouraged to attend the appointments too and should bring their planner with them. They do not need to attend in uniform.

Parking will be an issue for many parents as we have very limited space to park on the Academy site and these spaces will be taken up by staff who will be present at Parents' Evening. Can I suggest therefore that if you live in Horbury you may be better to walk as road parking spaces will be in very short supply. If you live outside Horbury then public transport may well be a better alternative. If you do choose to park on the Academy site, please ensure that you park with due consideration for other users of the car park and grounds.

All cars are parked at the owner's risk.

Although we endeavour to ensure all appointments take place, in some instances unplanned staff absence on the day may make this unfeasible. In this instance, if you should wish to be contacted by the subject teacher for your son/daughter, please add this to the parent survey that will be issued.

If you have any queries regarding changes to the school curriculum, please do not hesitate to get in touch via enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to Horbury Academy.

Yours sincerely,

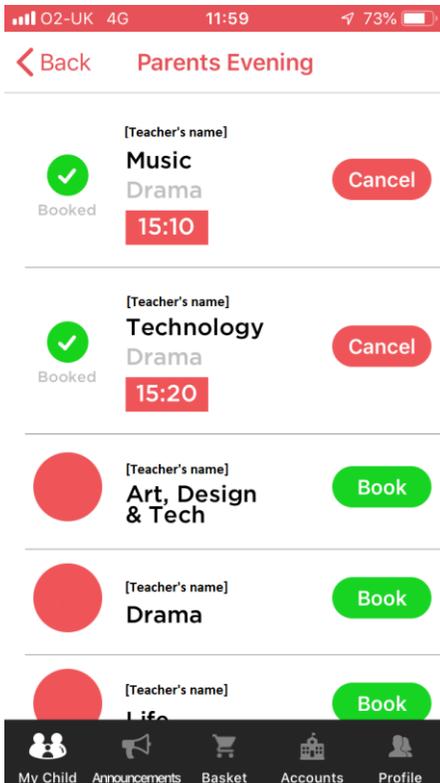
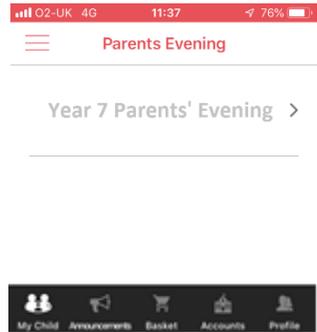
Mr Mirzai
Year 8 Pastoral Year Leader

How to: Book Parents' Evening appointments using MCAS

In order to book Parents' Evening appointments, first open your MCAS app, then select '**My Child**'. From there, you will find '**Parents' Evening**'.

Select the relevant Parent's Evening from the dropdown list.

This will go on to display the appointments that need booking and appointments that have already been booked (see below image).



To book an appointment simply click '**Book**', then select an available time slot and select '**Book**' to confirm the appointment. You will receive a notification to say '**Evening booked successfully**'; click '**OK**'.

Appointments will be displayed in time order, with a green tick to the left as confirmation of each booking.

To cancel an appointment, select '**Cancel**'. It is then possible to rebook an alternative time by repeating the above steps.