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Dear Parents/Guardians

Assessment in English

I am currently trialling a new system of assessing and giving feedback which uses an application called 'Kaizena'. Essentially, the work to be assessed is uploaded, where it is then assessed by the teacher. The teacher highlights relevant areas of the assessed piece that he or she wishes to comment on, and then speaks feedback into the microphone. The feedback is then presented as a sound file alongside that area of the work.

The benefits of this are that the teacher can leave much more detailed feedback if speaking rather than writing, and the students can also respond with comments of their own if prompted. Teachers and students can also take part in a discussion forum with the rest of their group, as well as set homework, share research and suggest relevant links. Pupils can access their feedback and group via PC or a phone app once registered.

I am currently trialling this system with 9O, 9P, 10EnCJE, 11EnCJE and 12C. Please do ask your son to show you how this works, and have a look at how his work is being assessed. I'd be interested to receive your questions and views on this as a new method of assessing work. Please also be aware that this system of assessment and feedback currently replaces key assessment pieces being marked by hand with my current classes: they will get the work back, but the marked version is available via Kaizena. Other assessments will be covered in the usual manner. There is no suggestion or plan, as yet, to extend this method to all pupils, as it will suit some teachers more than others. However, it does seem an exciting development in terms of encouraging pupils to engage with their own work.

Kind regards

Craig Ennew
Head of English