



CASE STUDY

# How VenturEd Solutions transformed Parents' Evenings in schools

Learn how these schools have benefitted from our Parents' Evening solution



# Introduction

One of the main challenges for schools when it comes to Parents' Evenings is to be able to organise the event without being overwhelmed by a massive admin workload. Using an effective Parents' Evenings system can save admin staff and teachers hours of work and stress while improving the overall outcome of the event.

For this case study, we spoke to several of our customers who found our Parents' Evening solution to be highly effective, including...



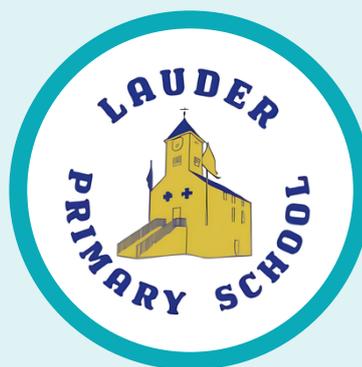
**North Lanarkshire Council**



**St Margaret's High School**



**Mackie Academy**



**Lauder Primary School**

# The challenges of Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings are one of the most important engagement tools schools have at their disposal. While it's a statutory requirement for schools to provide at least one opportunity per year for parents and guardians to discuss pupil progress with a teacher, studies show that parental engagement in student learning is one of the most important factors in their overall achievement.

The problem is, in their traditional format, Parents' Evenings take time away from increasingly busy schedules, require high levels of coordination and rely heavily on students to deliver the right bit of paper to the right person at the right time.

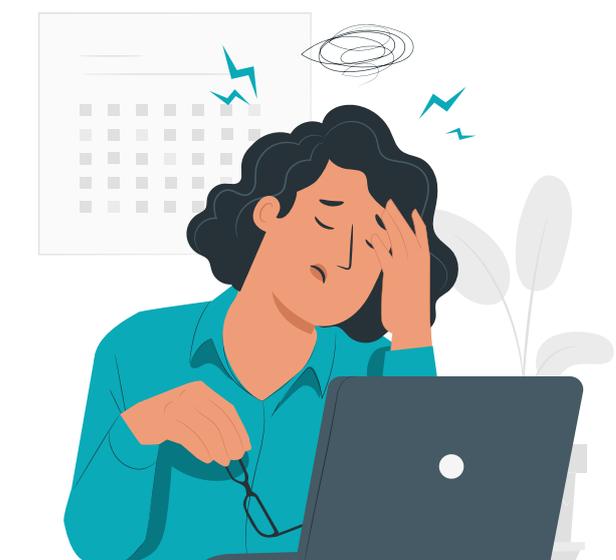
As a school with 250 pupils and around 30 staff members, organising parents' evenings was always a logistical challenge, says Justine Archenhold, the School Assistant at Lauder Primary School in the Scottish Borders.

"To organise a parents' evening and check every child had an appointment without family groups clashing used to take 4-5 staff members sitting in a room for several hours to check everything and then write out letters. We then had to wait for reply slips to come in, check them... and then change everything around again."

The delivery mechanism for these letters and reply slips was of course the children themselves. The paper-based system relied heavily on students to go around each of their teachers to book times and

then to co-ordinate with their parents. Naturally, this leads to some issues as Stephen Grimshaw, Deputy Head at St Margaret's High School in North Lanarkshire, explains:

"The old system we used completely empowered children to make appointments and they could skip certain teachers. Staff were also in control of how many bookings they took and the kids could sometimes struggle to find the right staff."



# The benefits of the Parents' Evening Booking System

To address these issues, both St Margaret's and Lauder Primary trialled Parents' Evening Booking System (PEBS), a simple software that pulls data directly from the school and allows parents to pick the times that suit them directly from their devices.

For Stephen at St Margaret's, the impact was immediately noticeable:

"We were quite an early adopter of PEBS in Scotland, trialling it with our fourth years. We usually had 52% of parents coming to stage year 4 Parents' Evening, but our first time with PEBS was 76%."

"It definitely makes things more streamlined and is better than paper," adds Helen Mallalieu from Aberdeenshire's Mackie Academy. "Now it takes me ten minutes to upload everything, and we send Groupcall texts to parents to tell them to book."

The time-saving aspect of PEBS, along with a noticeable increase in parental engagement, are the largest benefits schools are seeing.

"PEBS saves up to a full day's worth of administration, and has made a huge difference" says Justine.

"It saves so many hours of manual work and a lot of paper. It should be a tool used in every school office because it saves time and stress."

## The benefits for local authorities

Local authorities are noticing a difference too. Liz McPhie, Technical Project Administrator for North Lanarkshire Council, trains school leaders in the area on using technology effectively.

"When delivering training at various schools across the authority, I have received a positive response, especially when organising sibling appointments and dealing with split families.

"Some primary schools have stated that it now takes a couple of hours to organise a Parents' Evening as opposed to one week, saving valuable time on resources."

**"We've had a lot of positive feedback from parents as it's quick and easy, and they get to see the teachers they want to see."**

Helen Mallalieu, Mackie Academy



"In a nutshell, it is a good piece of software that is easy to use, and that is crucial. Parents and guardians have given good feedback through the function in PEBS where they can leave comments," says Helen.

And what's the real impact of PEBS for key school stakeholders? Stephen sums up:

"PEBS has had a real impact on getting families to parents' evenings and has made them much more professional. It has raised the status of parents' evening for parents, students and staff.

"Staff know who is coming and are more organised, which means the quality of dialogue has a big impact. PEBS has been really, really worthwhile."



**"It saves so many hours of manual work and a lot of paper. It should be a tool used in every school office because it saves time and stress."**

Justine Archenhold,  
Lauder Primary School

## **Transform** your Parents' Evenings

Embrace the future of school meetings with our **Parents' Evening Booking System**.

Get started today to streamline your evenings, boost attendance, and empower your staff to make the most of the quality time they get to discuss making real positive changes for every student.

**Book demo**

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