

Questions raised during the presentation to community

Community member	Question (copied directly from the chat)	Response
A Froggatt	Who are the parent representatives (for the new build) and what was the process for selection?	Anita O'Hart and Louise Conn are the parent representatives. The school asked for parent volunteers in 2019 for the reference group.
C Stead	If there is a parent representative where can we get in touch with them so that they can represent us?	See above
J MacDonald	Hi Vanessa, where may I be able to review the research?	https://monavale-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/empowering-our-learners/high-potential-and-gifted-education-research.html
Fabienne	Can you please define co-teaching	Please see the presentation on co-teaching on our school website.
C Stead	Can you explain how each of these five options impacts class sizes for normal classes?	Class sizes won't be affected.
S Todd	Is this research entirely theoretical or can you provide examples of similar sized schools to Mona Vale where this has been employed?	https://monavale-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/empowering-our-learners/high-potential-and-gifted-education-research.html
P White	Why is no change to existing structure not an option? is what was being done so bad? Did teachers not collaborate before?	Our teachers have engaged in significant collaboration in 2020, facilitated by a change in our RFF timetable since returning to full time teaching.
Hotevents	Where does co-teaching fit into this model? You have no covered this	Please see the presentation on co-teaching on our school website.
CT	Is it not a bit late in the year to be still deciding on a model to then implement in 2021?	No, our classes have not been planned as of yet as we are still enrolling kindergarten students. Teachers typically commence planning classes in Week 8 of Term 4.
M Harris	The majority of the community weren't really aware until recently??	
A Lineva	Why was there not an option of keeping the existing structure presented to the teachers? the executive team made a decision to abolish the extension classes then asked teachers only about how to abolish them?	The teachers were given all of the models to consider. This was not a decision made by the executive team. None of the classroom teachers believe that keeping

		the existing structure is in the best interest of all our students.
A Lineva	Why weren't teachers not given a chance to vote in favour of the existing model?	See above.
CT	Is there not a link that a large number of MV students go into the OC class because of extension program? Other schools have only 1 or 2 students that get in	No there is not. Many factors determine the Opportunity Class composition and this changes each year. It depends on the number of students who apply, and then accept a position.
Hotevents	So is co-teaching and 60 kids per class now off the table?	As mentioned in the presentations, MVPS has had co-teaching classes for the past 10 years and will continue. Just to clarify, we only have space for 6 co-teaching environments and staff to student ratios remain the same.
C Stead	To confirm, the vast majority of classes will stay similar to the number they are now?	Yes
Carolyn	Is the proposed aptitude test linked to this.	See assessment presentation on website.
Kaye C	What's changed with clustering is the labelling of the children. Can we not continue without the labeling	The school doesn't and will not be labelling any children. The concept behind clustering is to ensure a good range of students within a classroom, so that students have a group of students at a similar level to work with.
N Jones	Why can't we wait till the classrooms are built and give everyone time to get this correct before rushing this out in weeks	The new build will take several years to be completed. The school does not believe that it is acceptable to continue with the current practices.
J MacDonald	I'm trying to understand this, the definition of high potential has changed. So you want to cluster the students in order to identify high potential students? On what metrics are students being clustered? Is there a resource differentiation depending on a students cluster? What will happen to lower performance children, will they be given increased resources?	According to the HPGE, high potential students are those whose potential exceeds that of students of the same age in one or more domains: intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical. Our assessment processes are used to identify high potential students. As a school, teachers will continue to cater for all students' needs.

		Resources are deployed based on individual student requirements.
L Thomas	What about students who have trouble or struggle academically, co-teaching I believe works best in still a similar class size of 30	Please see the presentation on co-teaching on our school website.
CT	What about students that do not cope well in such a large classroom environment?	We take considerable care placing all of our students in classes. This won't change. We will continue to provide the high level of support that we currently have in place for our students with particular needs.
E Lough	Will each teacher be responsible/assigned to 30 children (as is currently the situation)? Or will both teachers float across all 60 children?	Please see the presentation on co-teaching on our school website.
M Sheridan	Will there be more teaching aids to assist the teachers? And to assist the children?	School learning support officers (SLSOs) are allocated to students who receive funding.
C Stead	Teaches I've spoken to hate co-teaching. What was the teacher vote on that one? The 45 responses?	Teachers were given the opportunity to express an interest in co-teaching for 2021. Many (over half) of our teachers are interested in undertaking a co-teaching placement in 2021 or beyond.
Michelle	So has the school actually already made a decision for 2021? If so please tell us!	At the time of the presentation the answer was no. Since that date the teachers have voted and a decision has been made. Please see Week 4 Term 4 newsletter.
A Lineva	What do you mean by one class? 30 kids or 60 kids? One teacher would be teaching 30 or 60 children, while another one assisting?	Please see the presentation on co-teaching on our school website.
MThornton	What happens when the teachers working together, actually don't work well together?	The teachers will be choosing when to co-teach. Teachers have expressed an interest in co-teaching and would be paired with a colleague.
L Gatien	Would all of these scenarios occur during the year depending on the content, or would the teachers generally adopt 1 or 2 of these methods?	Please see the presentation on co-teaching on our school website.
B McCreery	These old classrooms have very poor acoustics, why not wait until you have the new build completed.	We acknowledge that not all of our classrooms are appropriate for co-teaching. We currently have 12 classrooms that offer the possibility.
J Rosenwax	What % of a student's day will be spent in a co-teaching environment?	In co-teaching classrooms, the teachers will make the decisions around when to co-teach and this will vary.

Michelle	Can I ask why this information wasn't shared with us months ago?	We were not ready to share this months ago. We were constantly adapting to changing COVID guidelines - whilst leading and managing a school. We asked our community to allow us the time to complete our evaluation and make some determinations before we communicated. This is what we are now doing.
Hotevents	1 teaching 60 kids and one observing.... How can this be best practice for our kids?	Please see research available on the website and the presentation on co-teaching.
M Harris	I am a Year 4 teacher and co-teaching works wonderfully! just wondering why this wasn't communicated to the parents from the get go? As a parent it just feels that the school has shut us out as the parents.	Co-teaching has been common practice at MVPS for the last 10 years.
P White	I understand how these models can benefit with high school children, but my daughter is 6. Are you telling me 60 6 year olds in a room won't be chaos?	Department recommendations are that there are 20 students in a Kindergarten classroom. In a co-teaching environment, there are two classrooms that can be opened up to one bigger space. The teacher to student ratio remains the same. Therefore in a Kindergarten co-teaching environment there would be, at times, 40 students and two teachers.
E Lough	On a very practical level, will acoustics/sound-deafening be addressed within the new build and retro-fitted to existing rooms?	Yes to the classrooms identified as being upgraded and to the new classrooms.
M Moylen	Will the teachers of the co teaching classrooms be full-time teachers or teachers who job share causing the class to have 3 or 4 different teachers across the week?	The school has not finalised its staffing for 2021. The situation you described is very unlikely.
CT	What if one class is ready for the co-teaching component and the other isn't? Do they have to wait around until the other class is ready or does the other class not get to finish their other module work?	Classroom teachers carefully plan and timetable all learning experiences and opportunities.
C Stead	In the new school renovation are you proposing maxing all the class rooms like this?	Plans have not been finalised but the upgrade does not cover all classrooms.
S Martin	So is there going to be a co teaching for kindy 2021 when it clearly states the class structure should be no bigger that 20 children?? And how will you choose to put which children into that scenario?	2020 was the first year in the last 8, that we have not had a co-teaching classroom in Kindergarten. Students are placed in classes using all available information gathered from preschools, parents, orientation days

		and external providers where applicable. The teacher to student ratio is 1:20 in kindergarten.
A Jones	Will those teachers who elect to co-teach be able to choose their co-teaching teacher?	The school will look to pair up teachers who have complimentary skills sets. Naturally, we will not be placing teachers into an environment that would negatively impact students.
N Jones	What strategies will be put in place to stop kids falling through the cracks with these larger spaces	Teachers will continue to cater for all students regardless of whether they are in a co-teaching environment.
J Rosenwax	How reliant is the cluster model on peer-teaching? Previous presentations have placed a strong focus on this.	The cluster model is not reliant on peer teaching. This strategy is common practice in all classes.
A Bradstreet	Why does scout flag that the final diagram should be treated cautiously?	This is because the paper and pen NAPLAN test has a 'ceiling' and students who performed highly in Year 3 may be presented with what is negative growth in Year 5. This has been factored into our evaluation.
N Bowles	I am supportive of the concept, I am curious about the 'differentiation' assessment process and frequency. Sarah talked about clustering classes with high potential students so interested to know how we ensure assessments are ongoing and not just prior to yearly class determination.	The school has an extensive assessment schedule. Assessments take place throughout the year.
A Froggatt	All this data is based on Naplan results-I remember there being a lot of talk last year about abolishing this method of assessment. Is Naplan here to stay?	As far as the school is aware, yes. Whilst NAPLAN has been politicised, it does provide the school with useful information which we use to compare and support our internal data.
Hotevents	Is this a presentation of what the school is doing next year and the reasons why? Has the decision already been made? Sure seems like it.	At the time of the presentation the answer was no. Since that date the teachers have voted and a decision has been made. Please see Week 4 Term 4 newsletter.
E Lough	How fluid are the clusters? Is there scope for a student to move up and or down groups throughout the year?	Clustering within a class is fluid and students would be grouped according to their ability or the purpose of the activity.
Carolyn	How does the proposed aptitude test fit in this?	Please see the presentation on assessment on the school website.

Kaye C	How old is the naplan data – given that we didn't do naplan this year and last year's Year 7 data was greatly affected in many schools due to online format, so was 'unreliable'	The most recent NAPLAN data is from 2019.
C Stead	Good question Elizabeth. How does a student labelled has having no potential climb into a state of potential?	We do not label students. As per the HPGE policy, talent development is the process by which a student's potential is developed into high achievement in a specific domain or field or endeavour.
B McCreery	Given the year we have all had to endure, would it not have been kinder and much more reasonable to tell families who choose MVPS precisely because of the extension class that we are scrapping them instead of dropping this bombshell with a few weeks of the year left to go? This doesn't give people much time to find a new school should they now wish to leave.	We are retaining the Year 4 and Year 6 extension classes in 2021. Our Year 4 into Year 5 process has always depended on the number of students who move into the OC class. This year for example, 10 children from the Year 4 extension class moved into the OC class and 4 students moved out of the area and therefore changed schools. This means that the current Year 5 class, 5 Green is made up of a combination of students across the grade who joined the 16 students from the 2019 Year 4 extension class. The OC test in 2020 is not until November 18, a lot later than previous years. We will not know until mid-January of the successful applicants which makes planning in advance a challenge. This term our Year 4 teachers will develop the 2021 Year 5 classes based on their knowledge of each individual student. They will develop a number of options and then review these after we find out about the OC applications and adjust the classes accordingly.

		Whilst there has been a history of non-local enrolments being accepted in schools the DoE has reminded schools of their obligations under the policy. All local schools have places for students who live in the catchment area. Should you wish to look at your options this is entirely your decision.
J Rosenwax	Is this a new assessment or is the school telling us what it does at the moment?	The aptitude test has been used at MVPS for a number of years. However, previously it has been given only to Year 2 students and new students.
Holly and Will Hill	Why a Raven's IQ test over a Wechsler intelligence scale?	Please see the assessment presentation on the website.
Hotevents	What was the point of sli.do if our questions are not going to be answered! You obviously already prepared this presentation in advance	The presentations were prepared in advance specifically focusing on the questions we received. Those questions that were not addressed have been done so separately and have been made available to the whole school community.
C Abela	How will you select which classes to be in the co-teaching classrooms currently available (think it was 6 current classrooms so 12 classes currently)?	Classes and location of classes have not been finalised for next year but as previously mentioned, considerable thought will be put into this process.
Holly and Will Hill	Can we provide our own in-depth learning assessment?	We welcome any additional information from parents about their children that they believe will assist with their learning.
M Harris	Sli.do questions? When will they be addressed?	Please see both this and accompanying documents.
S Roxburgh	Isn't it 'community in concert' for responding to these questions?	The school has answered all questions and spoken in person to many parents. We hope that you can appreciate the mammoth task this has been, especially as we are also trying to run a large school with over 3000 stakeholders.

Holly and Will Hill	If using Raven's how can you be sure that you address the abilities in verbal comprehension, visual spatial, working memory, processing speed and fluid reasoning?	The Ravens is an aptitude assessment not an IQ assessment. If a teacher has concerns about a student in any of the areas you mention, we would request a more specialist assessment.
Carlie	Is there any information on how these changes may assist those kids already falling through gaps given learning needs?	If a parent has a concern that their child is 'falling through gaps', we strongly request that they please speak directly to their child's teacher.
L Drury	What about the parent vote?	Whilst we welcome the comments and interest from our community, the school as the educational experts, make decisions regarding class structures.
J Rosenwax	Please explain the direct impact that the HPGE Policy has on the extension class model? What recommendations are currently NOT being met by the school? How will these be met under the cluster model?	Please see the HPGE presentation on the website.
Hotevents	What about the parent feedback you have already received? Will you please acknowledge that	The questions that we received from parents prior to this presentation have been addressed and all of those parents have either received an email or been spoken to in person. The majority of the Sli.do questions were addressed in the presentations or in the Q&A document. Questions from this chat have been addressed.
A Bradstreet	So cutting to the chase; is there scope for parents to influence these decisions or is it simply application of new Government policy at a local level?	This a school based decision not Government policy. We have welcomed the input from our community.
J Rosenwax	What is holding up the teacher vote?	Nothing. The teachers were given a few days to consider all available information and options. That process had not been completed at the time of the community presentation.
M Sheridan	If the school isn't hitting the results compared to other schools / states as shown in the graph earlier how is moving the goal post before training the teachers properly as mention going to raise the results ? Shouldn't the training and implementation come first then showcase proven results and data before changing?	Please see the professional learning presentation on the school website.
M Mouse	When does consultation start	As mentioned, whilst we welcome the comments and interest from our community, the school as the

		educational experts, make decisions regarding class structures.
A Jones	So are you saying that the rooms aren't open 100% of the time or just adhoc?	Please see the co-teaching presentation on the website
Hotevents	So no questions from sli.do being addressed?	Please see our earlier response to your question.
Michelle	So have you managed to retain these teachers for next year?	There is always movement in staffing, particularly in a large school. Teachers make personal decisions, receive promotions or choose to move on for their own professional development.
A Lineva	Have you considered employing more teachers to assist and address current challenges in current normal-sized classrooms? I am constantly hearing about distractions in class from my kids that are at k-2?	The Department has a strict staffing policy and teachers are based on the number of students enrolled at the school. If you have concerns about classroom disruptions, we encourage you to please contact your class teacher so that these may be addressed.
Fabienne	Why not bring the non-extension class to a similar standard?	We have high expectations of all our students.
Simon Todd	When do we get clarity on next years structure?	This was detailed in the Term 4, Week 4 newsletter.
J Rosenwax	What date will you communicate the outcome to the community?	Please see above.
K Stollznaw	Maybe all of these theories and proposed practices are great and well-founded and beneficial for our kids – but if so why has there been so little genuine engagement with parents to date? This really feels like all the decisions have been made and are being forced through with minimal, proforma 'consultation' – why?	We are confident that our research and evaluation will bring about positive implications for all students. We would not be moving forward if we had hesitations. Our teachers and school executives are trained professionals who are well able to make decisions about the educational provision of the school. We hope that you can appreciate the mammoth task this has been, especially as we are also trying to run a large school with over 3000 stakeholders. This has been made additionally complex this year. We sought dispensation to hold the focus group meeting, have spent countless hours speaking and meeting with parents and developing presentations. You are more than welcome to meet with one of the senior

		executives to discuss any concerns you may have for your child(ren) and we encourage you to contact us should you wish to.
Michelle	Will those teachers still be employed by MVPS next year?	We are yet to finalise staffing for next year so cannot comment on which teachers will be working at MVPS in 2021.
N Webster	What is the timeline for the completion of these 'next steps' on this slide??	The timeline is for Term 4 2020 (Most of these items are historically completed by our school in Term 4). Some items will lead into T1 2021.
Hotevents	What about in Australia?	We are not sure what you are referring to.
Sally Brandt	If you get rid of the extension classes would you consider streaming all kids for maths and english?	The research we have engaged in and current best practice suggests that grouping students within a classroom is far more effective than grouping across classrooms. Logistically the movement of students across campus means loss of teaching time.
S Martin	Do we get a say in this or has it already been decided?	Whilst we welcome the comments and interest from our community, the school as the educational experts, make decisions regarding class structures.
A Jones	At the moment the teaches always seem to be away at meetings and always subs..... will there be more face to face interaction or less with this new structure	Collaborative planning has meant that students have 4.5 days of uninterrupted learning time. This will continue in 2021.
J Rosenwax	Timeline?	Addressed above.
Hotevents	When will we know the school structure for 2021? Is there a cut off date	Please see the Term 4 Week 4 newsletter.
A Lineva	Did you include an option of maintaining extension classes into the teachers poll?	Yes. The teachers did not want this option.
C Stead	Why are the teachers making the decision on this? Shouldn't parent have at least some say.	Teachers are the educational experts and best placed to make educational decisions.
N Jones	Why cant this happen once the new classrooms are built?	Addressed above.